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the COMMERCIAL will endeavor to pursue the same course which has characterized it in past years. It will support Republican principles, as experience teaches the wisdom of the party measures which do not meet its approval, and to condemn the acts of men when those acts do not comport with a sense of right and justice. It will remain faithful to the great principles upon which the Republican party was based, and will espouse the cause of no other political faction. It will give questions which now agitate the country, and which must in due time reach a decision, as we believe, in favor of Republicanism, all the full of interest to the general reader, and will be calmly and dispassionately, but manly, discussed, in all their bearings.

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THE ICE-JAM AT ST. LOUIS.

The Gorge Solidified by the Cold Snap —No Present Danger to the Ice-Locked Steamboats—Details of Losses.

ST. LOUIS, December 14.—There is no change to report in the condition of the ice-locked steamers at the arsenal. The gorge is still firm and there is no doubt but that all of the boats that can float will be extricated and placed in safe quarters. The loss to the Keokuk Northern Line will not exceed $100,000, and may not reach $75,000. The fire risk on the Centennial is for $10,000 in Cincinnati offices.

ST. LOUIS, December 15.—The weather turned very cold again last night and the mercury fell some twenty degrees below the freezing point. The ice has greatly solidified and strengthened the gorge in the river, and there seems to be no danger of further damage to the ice-locked steamers at the arsenal, should the weather moderates again, and the ice runs out. The boats not wrecked in the first crash, are in as favorable a condition as possible, and a large number of men are engaged repairing them to be ready for a move when the gorge breaks.

The wrecked steamers and their loss is about as follows: South Shore, $2,000; Southern Belle, $8,000; Fannie Keener, $15,000; insured for $5,000 in Cincinnati offices; Jennie Baldwin, $8,000; Davenport, $10,000; Rock Island, $10,000; Bayard, $5,000; Centennial, $60,000. The damage to other steamers and ferryboats, loss and damage of numerous barges and such like craft, will probably increase the total loss by the ice movement to nearly, if not quite, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

ST. LOUIS, December 15.—The river has fallen two feet to-day, supposed to have been caused by a channel cutting out under the ice gorge between here and Carondelet. The situation at the arsenal is unchanged, except that the steamers there which can be moved are being placed in better quarters. The weather is moderating again quite rapidly, but there are no prospects of a speedy breakup. Commodore Davidson arrived to-night from St. Paul, and made a thorough survey of the situation. He thinks the Centennial can be raised if the weather continues favorable, and that the loss to the fleet placed in much less than previously reported. Should the Centennial be raised, the loss on her will be $30,000. If she proves to be a wreck, it will exceed $60,000.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

ANOTHER ACT IN THE FARCE.

Wade Hampton "Inaugurated" as Governor.

Outline of His Inaugural Address.

Very Pretty Talk---But It Comes from a Bad Source.

COLUMBIA, December 14.—The inauguration of Hampton took place in front of Carolina Hall this afternoon. The square in front of the hall was densely packed with persons of both races, and the house tops were covered with spectators. At 3:30 P. M. Hampton was escorted to the stand amid demonstrations of great enthusiasm. Members of the General Assembly occupied the space immediately surrounding the stand, with the crowd in the rear. General Hampton then read his inaugural address, of which the following is an abstract:

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

It is with feelings of the profoundest solicitude that I assume the arduous duties and grave responsibilities of the high position to which the people of South Carolina have called me. It is amid events unprecedented in the Republic that I take the chair as Chief Magistrate of this State. In time of profound peace, when no legal officer had been resisted in the proper discharge of his functions, we have witnessed a spectacle abhorrent to every patriotic heart, and fatal to republican institutions—Federal troops used to promote the success of a political party. Undismayed, though shocked by this flagrant violation of the Constitution of the country, our people, with a determination no force could subdue, no fraud could defeat, kept steadily and peacefully in the path of duty, resolved to assert their rights as American freemen at the ballot box, that great court of final resort before which must be tried the grave questions of the supremacy of the Constitution and the stability of our institutions. What the verdict of the people of South Carolina has been, the whole world knows. It has reverberated throughout the State, and its echoes come back to us from every land where liberty is venerated, declaring in tones that must be understood by all, standing on the Constitution of our country, we propose to obey its laws, to preserve as far as in us lies this peace and honor, and to secure to all citizens every privilege guaranteed by the Constitution. I pledge made by us for reform and honest government. We intend to prove to the world the sincerity of our declaration, that all who meet in a peaceful and legal manner shall be protected, and that we have no successfully made was not party ambition for party supremacy, but the sacred hope of redeeming our State.

But it was sought to wrest the fruits of this victory by a gigantic fraud and a base conspiracy. When the members-elect of the General Assembly assembled in the Capitol to take their seats, armed soldiers of the Federal Government confronted them, and their certificates of election were scrutinized and passed upon by a corporal of the guard. It was amid these appalling scenes that the members of the General Assembly were called on to assume the high trust as representatives of a free State, and that State one of the original thirteen who won our independence and framed our Constitution. Deterred from the exercise of their rights by the presence of an armed force, a legal quorum of the Lower House, after placing on record our protest, quietly withdrew from the capitol and proceeded to organize that branch of the General Assembly. You have seen a minority of the House usurp the powers of the majority. You have seen the majority expelled from their hall by threats of force. You have seen persons having no shadow of a claim as members admitted to seats in the House, and the votes of those who, themselves, were acting in direct violation of the Constitution, and you have seen the last crowning act of infamy by the defeated candidate for the office of Governor, defeated by the popular vote, has himself declared elected by his co-conspirators.

I come to my position as Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth to place on record my solemn and indignant protest against acts which I consider as subversive of civil liberty and destructive of free forms of government. A great task is before the Conservative party of this State. They entered on this contest with a platform so broad, so strong, so liberal, that every honest citizen could stand upon it. They recognized and accepted the amendments to the Constitution in good faith; they pledged themselves to work reform and to establish good government. They promised to keep up an efficient system of public education, and to that end solemnly call on all citizens of South Carolina of both races, of both parties should be regarded as equals in the eye of the law, all to be fully protected in the enjoyment of every privilege which now possessed by them. To the faithful observance of these pledges we stand committed, I, as the representative of the Conservative party, should myself be bound by every dictate of honor and good faith to use every effort to have these pledges redeemed fully and honestly. Let us show to all of this country that the interests of both races can best be secured by cultivating peace and promoting prosperity among all classes of our fellow-citizens.

To my colleagues on the floor of the General Assembly in my efforts to attain these laudable ends, and trust that all branches of the government will unite with me in this patriotic work. If so united and working with a resolute will and earnest determination, we may hope soon to see the dawn of brighter days for our State. God in His infinite mercy grant that it may come speedily, and may He shower the richest blessings of peace and happiness on our whole people.

At the close of the address the oath of office was administered by Trial Justice Marshall to Mr. Hampton as Governor, and to Wm. J. Simpson as Lieutenant Governor, the crowd standing uncovered while the ceremony was being performed. The chair in which Governor Hampton was seated was wrapped in the national colors, and he was borne on the shoulders of a dozen men to his hotel, escorted by the entire crowd. Numerous enthusiastic demonstrations followed the multitude from the front of the hotel. The Congressional committee were occupying a prominent position on the balconies, after which the crowd quietly dispersed.

NEW YORK, December 15.—A special from Columbia, dated yesterday, says: At a meeting of the Legislature in joint session the vote in the counties was proclaimed and the total vote in the State announced as follows:

Vote for Governor—Hampton, Democrat, 92,261; Chamberlain, Republican, 91,127; Hampton's majority, 1,134. For Lieutenant Governor—Simpson, Democrat, 91,689 Gleaves, Republican, 91,550; Simpson's majority, 139.

The Speaker then produced and read the following official statement from the colored Secretary of State:

"Vote for Governor elected, 1876, Hampton, 92,261; Chamberlain, 91,127."

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, }
COLUMBIA, S. C., December 9, 1876. }

I, J. H. E. Hayne, Secretary of State, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of the vote for Governor at the general election of 1876, as appears in the commissioners' returns now on file in this office.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State, at Columbia, this 9th day of December, 1876, and the 101st year of American independence.

[Signed] J. H. E. HAYNE,
Secretary of State.

This includes the vote of three counties of Edgefield and Laurens, which the Board of Canvassers threw out.

COLUMBIA, December 15.—The Senate committee, with the exception of Senator Merrimon, who stopped on the way at Raleigh, arrived last night. Senator Merrimon is expected to-morrow morning, when the committee will proceed to business.

The House committee examined several witnesses, and have obtained returns from nearly all the precincts but about fifteen, which will be supplied by testimony.

W. D. Simpson, Democratic Lieutenant Governor, to day sent a letter to the Senate, claiming his election and demanding his seat as presiding officer of that body. The letter was read and referred to the Judiciary Committee for report.

Another ballot was taken to-day for United States Senator by the Democrats, in joint session. The vote was scattering, and no choice.

NEW YORK, December 15.—The *Times'* special from Columbia says: It was understood that after the inauguration of Hampton yesterday, the Democratic members of the Senate would withdraw from the Chamberlain Legislature and go over to Carolina Hall, but the opening of the Senate to-day found them all in their seats as usual, and Hampton's future course is now left without an Upper House. The trouble is, they cannot agree among themselves as to the proper course to pursue. Some of them held that it was a fatal mistake for the Hampton men of either House to withdraw from the regular Legislature; that they ought to have remained where they could be no question as to the legality of their position, and thus have gained whatever advantage they could. Had they done this, it is thought they might have secured the Speakership, and possibly have captured enough Republicans to count in Hampton for Governor. But as it is, they have put themselves in an absurdly false position, and the more closely their position is examined the clearer it becomes that neither Hampton as Governor nor his Assembly as a legislative body has the slightest legal or constitutional ground to stand upon. They have involved themselves in a web of inconsistencies, contradictions and absurdities. Take the inauguration of Hampton, for example. They have all along maintained as one of the grounds why Chamberlain is not legally Governor, that he was not sworn into office by the Chief Justice, and yet Hampton could not get the Chief Justice or either of the associate justices to administer the oath to him, and was obliged to take Mackey, an interior judge, the legality of whose election at all is in dispute, to perform the ceremony. Then again, Hampton's Senators have continuously recognized the legality of the Chamberlain Legislature by uniting with it in legislation and in the election of a United States Senator. By their acts this very day, they have tactictly acknowledged that the inauguration ceremonies yesterday were a farce. After attending the swearing in of Simpson and declaring him Lieutenant Governor, yesterday, they take their seats in Chamberlain's Senate to-day and recognize Gleaves as the legitimate Lieutenant Governor. To make their inconsistency still more manifest, they accept $200 of their salary as Senators from Cardozo, the State Treasurer, who, they say, was not elected and is not legally Treasurer. It should be mentioned in this connection that Cardozo found no difficulty in borrowing money to pay an installment of the members' salaries, in anticipation of the passage of the Appropriation bill, which shows that quite as much confidence exists here in the legitimacy of the Chamberlain Legislature as was exhibited by the Carolina Bank in cashing the drafts of Hampton's Assemblymen for salaries to the extent of $100 each.

No one appears to know what will be the next move of Hampton or his Assembly, and it is doubtful whether they know them selves. If the Senators secede, as was expected, and order new elections to fill vacancies, the regular Senators will also order elections to fill vacancies in their body, and if the elections take place at the same time and are fairly conducted the Republicans will get three to their one. It is pretty certain that Judge Carpenter will decide the injunction suit, brought against Cardozo to prevent his paying out State funds as Treasurer, in favor of the Treasurer, and thus the attempt to block the financial wheels of the State government will fail.

Simpson, the claimant to the Lieutenant Governorship, sent a communication to the Senate to-day, reciting that he had been elected Lieutenant Governor and taken the oath of office, and that he was present in Columbia and ready to assume the duties of his office, and respectfully claimed his seat as presiding officer of the Senate. The communication was presented by a Democratic Senator, and after being read, was, on motion of a Republican Senator, referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it will probably have a permanent rest, unless it shall be deemed expedient to make it the subject of a report showing the illegality and absurdity of the Hampton and Simpson inauguration ceremonies.

The Northern Democrats have, doubtless, been regaled during their stay here by the recital of a horrible negro plot to massacre all the whites in Abbeville county. The whole thing was concocted here in the Democratic market, and is so utterly absurd that I have not thought it worth while to mention it until I found it printed and apparently credited by some Northern papers. The whole affair originated in a word of truth in it, and wherever such slanders against the colored race are repeated, as they doubtless will be, it will be necessary for a sensible man to call to mind the fact that this is the same county which, in 1874, were the only support and protection of the women and children of the South while their natural protectors were engaged in defending their bondage. If they had been a blood-thirsty race, given to the massacre of women and children, then was the opportunity; and their docility and humanity is that charge is the most unqualified and such slanders now. The facts about the shooting of a white man named Allen, in Abbeville, will be made known by the Republicans. It will doubtless appear that the whites were the first aggressors, as usual, and that the only known that one white man was shot and three negroes have been poisoned in retaliation, as to the charge that a negro plot to massacre the whites, there is not a man in South Carolina who believes a word of it, although there may be some who think that the crimes committed against the negroes by that country would justify it.

The House Congressional committee has been busy all day and evening, trying to discover some error in the returns of the Canvassing Board that would favor Tilden, but thus far have not succeeded in changing a single vote in the figures declared by the board. It has finally leaked out that the Democratic committee is now driving at. They only hope now to discover an error which will enable them to claim one Tilden elector in place of Hurley, whose majority, owing to a purely clerical error, was only 36. They thought at one time they had found it, but it only turned out a mare's nest. In one of the precincts of Greenville county, the legal name of which is Yesagan, the managers made their return under the local name of Gant, which is the name of the whole. The Democratic counsel upon it as a missing return, and thought they had got the election thrown out, but the matter was explained on cross-examination by their own witness, and Tilden's hopes were once more blasted. There is no room to doubt that the Democrats on the committee understood the game they were playing in the beginning, but hoped the Republicans did not, and thought to profit by their ignorance. This illustrates the manner in which they are conducting the investigation. There does not appear to be a Democrat on the committee who has manliness and honesty enough to come out and admit what every intelligent Democrat here does admit, that Hayes and Wheeler carried this State, and that it is useless to attempt to smuggle in even a single Tilden elector.

The Senate committee will commence work to-morrow. They will confine their investigations to the manner in which the election was conducted here. Governor General's response to the crowd in front of the Wheeler House, yesterday, after telling his hearers not to commit violence or do any act calculated to bring reproach upon the cause of the company, being the same in respect to the messages of both political parties, could not be attributed to a desire to prejudice the investigations of either party. The subpœnas have yet been served upon us by order of the Senate committee, and as far they delay might appear to be a discourtesy to the gentlemen of your committee, it does not seem proper to further postpone this answer. The subpœnas were served before the investigation which the committee had been directed to make was begun, and before evidence had been presented to the committee either that the persons named in the subpœnas were among messages sent by them related to the subject matter of the investigation. It appears to have been the intention of the committee to send again to-day that the Democratic Senators will secede and go over to Carolina Hall on Monday, but their future programme, if they have any, is kept a secret.

Hampton called on the United States Senate committee to-day and had some general conversation on the political situation. Butler paid his respects to the committee. The committee has unanimously agreed to take testimony in secret. They find the same state of things existing here as they did in Mississippi. Witnesses are afraid to come forward and testify in public, for fear of the vengeance that will follow, and the only way to get witnesses before the committee is to hold their sessions in private. There will be nearly two hundred witnesses examined in a thorough manner in which the campaign was conducted in this State. Testimony was taken in regard to the Hamburg massacre, which inaugurated the campaign policy in South Carolina. There is abundant evidence that the Hamburg affair was premeditated, and the beginning of a concerted plan to carry South Carolina by intimidation. It was predicted by those who took part in it more than a month before it occurred, accompanied by threats that Hampton should be elected if it had to wade knee deep in blood. The committee expects to be here in about three weeks. The House committee spent another day in trying to find some error in the canvass of the electoral ticket by the State Board, but failed, as usual. They have become thoroughly convinced that their mission down here must prove an abortion, but they have not the manliness to go back to Congress and say so. I am urged to contradict the lies that are daily sent North from here, and I might fill columns with such contradictions, in every issue of the *Times*; but it will not pay. Northern readers who are willing to believe the worst against the South falsehood can generally sift out the truth if they desire it. I have already corrected several, and here is another which illustrates the utter disregard for truth shown by the Democrats in their efforts to mislead public opinion at the North: It has been stated and published in the Democratic papers all over the country that Mr. Hayne, Secretary of State, and who is always designated as the colored Secretary, although he is as white as a majority of the men within the North or South, has thrown all the obstacles he could in the way of the Congressional committee in their efforts to get papers and documents from his office. Seeing these falsehoods, Mr. Hayne addressed a note to the Chairman of the committee, requesting him to state whether these statements were true or not. To-day he received the following reply:

HON. H. B. HAYNE—*Dear Sir:* In response to your letter of yesterday, I take pleasure, on behalf of the sub-committee, consisting of Judge Abbott, General Banks and myself, appointed to secure certain papers from the office of the Secretary of State, that you have treated us with the form courtesy, and have on all occasions when we desired, given us free access to the records, returns, &c., pertaining to the Presidential election, and that you have always been ready to furnish us with such information in regard to them as we desired. I am yours, very truly,

MILTON SAYLER.

COLUMBIA, December 17.—The city was agitated to-day by rumors that Governor Chamberlain was about to arrest Hampton and Simpson with his special constables, on a charge of treason. The rumor created a ripple of excitement, and developed the fact that such an attempt would be stubbornly resisted. The general expression was that Hampton could not be arrested by any official of Chamberlain, and that he would not be permitted to submit to any arrest other than by soldiers of the United States. Something of this sort may be contemplated, but it is doubtful whether it will be attempted.

Special to the New York Times.]

COLUMBIA, December 17.—The House Investigating Committee last night concluded their efforts to discover a flaw in the precinct returns which should change the electoral vote as declared by the State Board of Canvassers. They have utterly failed to accomplish any thing in that line of investigation, although all the witnesses thus far examined were called in the interest of the Democrats. They have proven enough, however, to open the door for the legitimate and fair increase of the Republican majority for both the electoral and State tickets. The Democrats on the committee, just before adjournment last night, had the assurance to propose that no further testimony be taken here, but that the committee divide itself into three sub-committees and go out to different parts of the State fishing for evidence. The object of this was two-fold—first, to prevent the introduction by the Republicans of witnesses already here, whose testimony would increase the Republican majorities, and second, to try and work up evidence to offset the proofs which they know are to be brought before the Senate committee touching the intimidation, violence and murder practiced by the rifle clubs during the Presidential campaign. In other words, the House committee having completely failed in the signal purpose for which they came here, are now to be used as a foil to investigations of the Senate committee. General Banks protested most earnestly against closing the investigation here before the Republicans had an opportunity to call a single witness, when it was known that several had been summoned from long distances, and were now in Columbia waiting to testify. The Democratic members, after consultation, concluded that they would hold one more session to-morrow, after which it is expected they will insist upon splitting into sub-committees and go on a roving expedition after testimony which, it is hoped, may in some way help the Democrats out of their dilemma.

Nothing is yet known as to what the Hampton pretended government intends to do. They are divided in their councils, and cannot agree on anything like a consistent plan of action. The Charleston *News* berates them daily for their blunders, and advises them what to do, but its advice goes unheeded. It is now understood that Simpson will soon move to get possession of the Lieutenant Governorship by a writ of *quo warranto*. Meantime the regular government goes on smoothly, and every day tends to increase the strength of its legitimacy and stability in the minds of the people. The quiet, but sometimes keen, sarcasm that did Governor Chamberlain assume the office of Governor by virtue of his last election, and whether he is recognized as Governor or Governor elect, or as Governor holding over? The Constitution of South Carolina does not designate any specific day when a new Governor shall enter upon the duties of his office, but provides that the existing Governor shall hold office until his successor is duly qualified. It makes the Lieutenant Governor, who is will probably have a permanent rest, unless it shall be deemed expedient to make it the subject of a report showing the illegality and absurdity of the Hampton and Simpson inauguration ceremonies.

A negro was murdered on a passenger car coming from Augusta to this place, on Friday, and his body tumbled out into the ditch. Found on four white men were engaged in the deed, and the pretense was that he used profane language in the presence of the wife of one of the white men. A reporter from New York was in the car at the time, and saw the facts to the *Union Herald* here. He says he heard no profane language used by the negro to the white woman, and that the negro and the lady, and it is suspected here that the negro was a witness on his way here to testify before the Senate committee. The committee think of investigating the matter.

COLUMBIA, December 18.—Another unsuccessful ballot for United States Senator was taken in the Democratic House to-day. Everything is quiet. The Congressional and Senatorial committees are working actively, but no results reached except a compromise between the Republicans and Democrats favorable to the latter.

A COMMITTEE SNUBBED.

The Western Union Telegraph Company Refuse to Produce Before Morrison's Investigating Committee Telegrams Sent by Republicans Concerning the Louisiana Election—Manly Letter from President Orton.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO., }
NEW YORK, December 15, 1876. }

Hon. Wm. R. Morrison, Chairman, and so forth, New Orleans, Louisiana:

SIR—Subpœnas have been served upon several employees of this company, directing them to produce before the Congressional committee, of which you are Chairman, all messages in possession of the company, sent and received by persons named in the subpœnas during several months of the present year. I have delayed a reply to these demands in the expectation that some legislation would be had on the matter by a committee of the Senate, also charged with the investigation of matters connected with the Presidential election and canvass in the several States, but no action on the part of the company, being the same in respect to the messages of both political parties, could not be attributed to a desire to prejudice or promote the interests of either. The subpœnas have yet been served upon us by order of the Senate committee, and as far they delay might appear to be a discourtesy to gentlemen of your committee, it does not seem proper to further postpone this answer. The subpœnas were served before the investigation which the committee had been directed to make was begun, and before evidence had been presented to the committee either that the persons named in the subpœnas sent or had any messages whatever, or that any messages sent by them related to the subject matter of the investigation. It appears to have been the intention of the committee to send again to-day that the Democratic Senators will secede and go over to Carolina Hall on Monday, but their future programme, if they have any, is kept a secret.

Hampton called on the United States Senate committee to-day and had some general conversation on the political situation. Butler paid his respects to the committee. The committee has unanimously agreed to take testimony in secret. They find the same state of things existing here as they did in Mississippi. Witnesses are afraid to come forward and testify in public, for fear of the vengeance that will follow, and the only way to get witnesses before the committee is to hold their sessions in private. There will be nearly two hundred witnesses examined in a thorough manner in which the campaign was conducted in this State. Testimony was taken in regard to the Hamburg massacre, which inaugurated the campaign policy in South Carolina. There is abundant evidence that the Hamburg affair was premeditated, and the beginning of a concerted plan to carry South Carolina by intimidation. It was predicted by those who took part in it more than a month before it occurred, accompanied by threats that Hampton should be elected if it had to wade knee deep in blood. The committee expects to be here in about three weeks. The House committee spent another day in trying to find some error in the canvass of the electoral ticket by the State Board, but failed, as usual. They have become thoroughly convinced that their mission down here must prove an abortion, but they have not the manliness to go back to Congress and say so. I am urged to contradict the lies that are daily sent North from here, and I might fill columns with such contradictions, in every issue of the *Times*; but it will not pay. Northern readers who are willing to believe the worst against the South falsehood can generally sift out the truth if they desire it. I have already corrected several, and here is another which illustrates the utter disregard for truth shown by the Democrats in their efforts to mislead public opinion at the North: It has been stated and published in the Democratic papers all over the country that Mr. Hayne, Secretary of State, and who is always designated as the colored Secretary, although he is as white as a majority of the men within the North or South, has thrown all the obstacles he could in the way of the Congressional committee in their efforts to get papers and documents from his office. Seeing these falsehoods, Mr. Hayne addressed a note to the Chairman of the committee, requesting him to state whether these statements were true or not. To-day he received the following reply:

HON. H. B. HAYNE—*Dear Sir:* In response to your letter of yesterday, I take pleasure, on behalf of the sub-committee, consisting of Judge Abbott, General Banks and myself, appointed to secure certain papers from the office of the Secretary of State, that you have treated us with the form courtesy, and have on all occasions when we desired, given us free access to the records, returns, &c., pertaining to the Presidential election, and that you have always been ready to furnish us with such information in regard to them as we desired. I am yours, very truly,

MILTON SAYLER.

COLUMBIA, December 17.—The city was agitated to-day by rumors that Governor Chamberlain was about to arrest Hampton and Simpson with his special constables, on a charge of treason. The rumor created a ripple of excitement, and developed the fact that such an attempt would be stubbornly resisted. The general expression was that Hampton could not be arrested by any official of Chamberlain, and that he would not be permitted to submit to any arrest other than by soldiers of the United States. Something of this sort may be contemplated, but it is doubtful whether it will be attempted.

Special to the New York Times.]

COLUMBIA, December 17.—The House Investigating Committee last night concluded their efforts to discover a flaw in the precinct returns which should change the electoral vote as declared by the State Board of Canvassers. They have utterly failed to accomplish any thing in that line of investigation, although all the witnesses thus far examined were called in the interest of the Democrats. They have proven enough, however, to open the door for the legitimate and fair increase of the Republican majority for both the electoral and State tickets. The Democrats on the committee, just before adjournment last night, had the assurance to propose that no further testimony be taken here, but that the committee divide itself into three sub-committees and go out to different parts of the State fishing for evidence. The object of this was two-fold—first, to prevent the introduction by the Republicans of witnesses already here, whose testimony would increase the Republican majorities, and second, to try and work up evidence to offset the proofs which they know are to be brought before the Senate committee touching the intimidation, violence and murder practiced by the rifle clubs during the Presidential campaign. In other words, the House committee having completely failed in the signal purpose for which they came here, are now to be used as a foil to investigations of the Senate committee. General Banks protested most earnestly against closing the investigation here before the Republicans had an opportunity to call a single witness, when it was known that several had been summoned from long distances, and were now in Columbia waiting to testify. The Democratic members, after consultation, concluded that they would hold one more session to-morrow, after which it is expected they will insist upon splitting into sub-committees and go on a roving expedition after testimony which, it is hoped, may in some way help the Democrats out of their dilemma.

Nothing is yet known as to what the Hampton pretended government intends to do. They are divided in their councils, and cannot agree on anything like a consistent plan of action. The Charleston *News* berates them daily for their blunders, and advises them what to do, but its advice goes unheeded. It is now understood that Simpson will soon move to get possession of the Lieutenant Governorship by a writ of *quo warranto*. Meantime the regular government goes on smoothly, and every day tends to increase the strength of its legitimacy and stability in the minds of the people. The quiet, but sometimes keen, sarcasm that did Governor Chamberlain assume the office of Governor by virtue of his last election, and whether he is recognized as Governor or Governor elect, or as Governor holding over? The Constitution of South Carolina does not designate any specific day when a new Governor shall enter upon the duties of his office, and respectfully claimed his seat as presiding officer of the Senate. The communication was presented by a Democratic Senator, and after being read, was, on motion of a Republican Senator, referred to the Judiciary Committee, where it will probably have a permanent rest, unless it shall be deemed expedient to make it the subject of a report showing the illegality and absurdity of the Hampton and Simpson inauguration ceremonies.

FLORIDA.

The Democratic Committee Disgusted.

UNABLE TO DISCOVER ANY FRAUDS.

No Democratic Counties to be Investigated.

Some Witnesses Whom They Refused to Examine.

TALLAHASSEE, December 14.—The Congressional committee to-day discovered what is alleged to be an interpolation of seventy-two names in the poll list of a precinct in Leon county. This interpolation, the Democrats charge, was made to cover seventy-two fraudulent tickets of minute size that were found in the box. The Democrats charged that these tickets were hidden in the folds of regular tickets, and thus smuggled into the box. The interpolation was charged on the ground that citizens of that precinct fail to identify any of the seventy-two names that appear consecutively on two pages to themselves, and from the fact that the poll list at this precinct was not numbered as at all other precincts. The Republicans claim that they can explain the facts satisfactorily to-morrow.

The Supreme Court proceedings to-day were stopped until Saturday next.

Special to the New York Times.]

TALLAHASSEE, December 16.—The State canvassers, through their counsel, Judge J. P. C. Emmons, formerly of Detroit, filed their answer to-day to the alternative writ. Counsel for the Democratic candidates moved to strike out the whole answer. This the court refused to do, but ordered the answer amended so as to show the fact, not the evidence upon which the canvassers acted in the rejection of the returns of a certain precinct. The amended answer will be made on Monday at ten o'clock.

The portion of the Congressional committee at work here concluded their investigation as to alleged Republican frauds in Leon county, to-day. They were told by the Democrats that frauds had been committed here, and that an examination of their proceedings would bring to light facts that would vitiate and overthrow the election in this county, with its 2,100 Republican majority. In view of granting this admission as to repeat the same action in reference to Colorado's participation in the organization of the House of Representatives. They are confident in the present House did in the recent organization.

Chivalry in the Van-Once More.

An altercation occurred to-night at the Ebbitt House between Colonel Fairfax, of Virginia, and a person named Schell, a doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. Knives were freely used on both sides, and it is feared with serious effect. Fairfax was stabbed in the breast, and Schell in the abdomen. The trouble arose from Schell putting Fairfax off the floor a few days ago, and when they met for the first time since at the hotel to-night, Fairfax made some emphatic expressions of his opinion of Schell. After a few preliminary verbal demonstrations, knives were drawn. Schell was also provided with a heavy walking stick. The belligerents indulged in some lively tactical operations, each trying to reach the other. Suddenly Schell thrust Fairfax on the head, at the same time parrying a lunge of Fairfax's knife. Fairfax, in warding off a second blow from Schell's stick, slipped and fell full length on the floor. Schell, taking advantage of his fallen antagonist, ran up and struck him a heavy blow on the head, and stooping, inserted his knife in Fairfax's neck, severing the jugular vein. Schell had previously received a cut in the abdomen on the left side. Fairfax was carried to his room. Schell remarked, as he was being conveyed to his home, "Well, he's got me killed."

The Revolutionary Proceedings in Indiana

The summary departure of Senator Morton for Indiana has created much comment and speculation. It was first stated in these dispatches, several days ago, that the Republicans of Representative-elect in Holman's district in Indiana, in a letter to a friend in this city, had stated that the Democratic Legislature in Indiana were arming and collecting forces in the interest of peace. Yesterday and to-day that information has been supplemented by telegraphic dispatches confirmatory thereof. It was then stated that Senator Morton was also fully advised of the revolutionary proceedings in the State, and had advised and voted with his colleagues when he voted directly and emphatically against them. There is nothing new to day. It is said that Senator Morton is making the circuit of the State on tour of the contested counties to-morrow.

MEXICO.

Capture of Lerdo and Death of Escobedo Confirmed—Diaz and Iglesias at War, the Former Proclaiming Himself Provisional President—Affairs at Matamoras.

NEW ORLEANS, December 17.—Several merchants from the interior of Mexico arrived here yesterday, and they confirm the news of the capture of Lerdo and the death of Escobedo and capture of the City of Mexico by General Diaz. Iglesias, from Leon, ordered Diaz to hold the City of Mexico and proclaim the Presidency of Iglesias, which Diaz declined to do unless he could name four members of the Cabinet. This was refused by Iglesias, when Diaz proclaimed himself Provisional President, and the revolution now continues between these rival generals. Both armies are preparing for a new struggle.

Revueltas still holds Matamoras, and refuses all communication with the revolutionary authorities. Considerable excitement and much power authority from Iglesias to demand the plaza, which none of them have, and he positively refuses any communication with the latter. He solidly declares that if any conduct would make him many friends, but for the fact that he is proceeding to collect a tax of three per cent. off merchants, which, they protest, is unlawful and arbitrary. General Rocha is still here, endeavoring to get Revueltas to turn over to him. At present all is in uncertainty as to affairs in Mexico, as it is not known which may prove the stronger, Diaz or Iglesias.

RAILROAD WAR ENDED.

A New and Amicable Arrangement Made Some of Its Features.

NEW YORK, December 16.—The *Evening Post* says the railroad managers signed a positive agreement on Saturday morning. There will be no discrimination against New York, save as regards local freights. This ends the railroad war.

On Monday rates will be a general advance in freight rates. East bound freights from Chicago will be advanced to thirty cents per hundred on grain and flour, and on thirty-five cents per hundred on fourth class and provisions. West bound freights will be advanced to fifty cents per hundred on first class, and in the same proportion on other classes. All the competitive rates will be the same on all the lines. On purely local rates as between Chicago and New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, Baltimore will have ten per centum and Philadelphia about seven and a half per centum less than New York. On local rates between St. Louis and New York, Ba

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1876.

THE total exports of New York since January 1st have been $253,528,675; for the corresponding period last year they were $208,878,917.

THE Democrats of South Carolina have proved their friendship for the colored man by selecting, through their rump Legislature, Sitting Bull BUTLER, the leader in the Hamburg massacre, as their choice for Senator of the United States.

THE total value of Boston imports since January 1st up to the close of last week, reaches $33,373,474, against $45,340,549 for the corresponding period of 1875, showing a decrease of $11,967,075, while the exports in the same time this year were $43,089,053, against $34,265,789 for 1875, a handsome balance on the right side of the ledger.

SENATOR GORDON, of Georgia, is likewise, as it seems, fearful of another conflict. He says:

In case of a conflict the South would take no part unless the integrity of their States should be threatened. There probably never was a people so sick of war as the people of the South, and it would take a great deal to get them to fight again.

THE pork packing industry, to date, exhibits a material increase as compared with that of last season. Chicago packers, since November 1, have slaughtered 819,986 hogs, against 676,153 for the same period last season. At other points packing is progressing quite favorably, and the aggregate slaughter in the West may be estimated at 2,200,000 hogs, about 1,725,000 of which have been packed at the six leading cities.

THE annual reports of the national homes for disabled union soldiers show a larger attendance than at any time since their establishment ten years ago. There are 3,200 disabled soldiers at Central Branch, Dayton, Ohio; 754 at Eastern Branch, Augusta, Maine; 758 at Northwestern Branch, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and 627 at Southern Branch, Hampton, Virginia, making a total of 5,339. At these four homes no deserving soldier, disabled in the service, has ever been turned away, and there is still room for any others who need relief.

BEAMISH, the Democratic candidate for Senator in Luzerne county, who has just been convicted of a penitentiary offense, was carried to the penitentiary by a band of negro "Loyal Leaguers," who followed the band playing "Old Hickory" had no more notion of exercising a military despotism than General GRANT has to-day. He hated traitors and nullifiers, as GRANT hates them; and if the shades of the hero of New Orleans are to be invoked, let his successor in the White House call upon him to bear witness that, "by the Eternal," the laws shall be enforced and treason and rebellion punished.

COUNTING THE VOTE.

The Democratic members of Congress now claim that the electoral vote for President is to be counted by *Congress*, and not by the President of the Senate; but they make the claim solely because they happen to have possession of one of the two Houses of Congress and can, if their claim is recognized, get control of the decision of the Presidential question.

The evident aim of the framers of the Constitution was to give to the *Senate* the power to count and declare the vote, and to the *House* the power to elect the President in case of the failure of any candidate to secure a majority of the electoral vote. This last power being reserved to the House exclusively, there is a manifest impropriety in giving to that body any control over the count itself which may necessitate the exercise of this exclusive power. Certainly, as the New York *Tribune* says:

The country will never sustain the Democratic demand that the same House which is to elect a President in case of failure to elect by the people shall have power at any time to cause a failure to elect by its sole objection to the votes of certain States. Whatever else may be conceded, that power, we may be sure, will not be conceded by the Senate, nor will the unwarranted assumption of it be sustained by any considerable portion of the law-abiding and intelligent people.

Mr. CHARLES PINCKNEY, of South Carolina, who was a member of the convention which framed the Constitution, in a speech in the House of Representatives in March, 1800, said:

To give Congress, even when assembled in convention, a right to reject or admit the [electoral] votes of States, would have been so gross and dangerous an absurdity as the framers of the Constitution never could have been guilty of.

Mr. PINCKNEY insisted that the convention was specially anxious to prevent such power from being assumed by Congress, and from 1789 down to and including the election of 1852, the electoral certificates were opened and the votes counted by the President of the Senate.

If precedent is worth anything in settling such questions, the uniform practice of the Government, from the hour of its formation, ought to be decisive. Out of the twenty-two Presidential elections which have been held the first sixteen terms were counted exclusively by the President of the Senate, as directed by the Constitution; and the practice thus established is the only proper one to follow.

The Twelfth amendment to the Constitution requires this counting to be done "in the presence of both Houses;" but that does not imply that both are to take part in the count. The House is required to be present solely because it may have to exercise its constitutional power of electing a President in the contingency of a failure of the people to elect. The peculiar function of the Senate is to ascertain, by opening and counting the electoral vote, whether a President has been elected or not. If one has been chosen, the President of the Senate proclaims that fact, and there is nothing further to do; but if it is not ascertained and announced that one has *not* been chosen, then the House "immediately" proceeds to make a choice. This is its own peculiar function, and that is why it is required to be present at the count. Its power is to be held in reserve until there is an occasion to exercise it; and it cannot, with any propriety, take part in a count which, by its own action, may give to it the right to exercise that peculiar function. The evident intention of the framers of the Constitution was to make the House a witness of the count but not a participator in it, and that for the simple reason that, in a certain contingency, it may be called on to act as umpire in deciding which of the unsuccessful candidates before the people shall be the President.

THE SILVER DOLLAR

The New York papers nearly all disapprove of the bill which has passed the House and is now before the Senate, for resuming the issue of the old silver dollar of 412½ grains, and making it a legal tender in payment of debts; while such papers as the Philadelphia *Press*, Philadelphia *North American*, Cincinnati *Commercial* and Chicago *Tribune*, favor the passage of the bill. The Cincinnati *Commercial* and Chicago *Tribune* were and are in favor of the early resumption of specie payments; so that their present position on the silver question does not grow out of any devotion to the doctrine of inflation or hostility to a return to coin payments as the basis of all business transactions. They both regard the Silver bill as likely to hasten, rather than retard, the resumption of specie payments.

It is urged against this bill that the present commercial value of silver is a fluctuating quantity, and has ranged, within the past year, from forty-seven pence per ounce to fifty-eight, in the London market; and that it is impossible to make a legal tender, of unvarying value, of a species of coin that has no certain or determinate value. On the other hand, the friends of the Silver bill urge that the fluctuation referred to grows out of the demonetization of silver by the German Government, and the consequent overflow of the silver market through the offerings of the rejected German coin. It is also urged that the remonetization of silver by the United States Government would counterpoise the action of the German Government, and result in giving a more permanent and steady value to silver in the markets of the world.

That such would be the effect of the passage of the bill now before the Senate we firmly believe. The Constitution recognizes and names gold and silver coin as the only legal tender in payment of debts, and being so recognized, there seems to be an eminent propriety in keeping up the recognition. Silver coin has been a part of the money of the country from the foundation of the Government until it was demonetized a few years since; and there is no good reason, so far as we have seen, for abandoning its use after so long an adhesion to it. The most of the Governments of the world still adhere to silver as a basis of commercial exchange. Austria, France, Russia, Canada, the Central and South American Republics, Japan and China all adhere to it; and Germany stands nearly alone in rejecting it. If the United States Government returns to it, as we think it should, the demand for coinage would undoubtedly contribute materially to settle the value of silver upon a certain and determinate ratio to gold.

The Bland bill, now before the Senate, may need amendment and change. We say nothing, here, as to its specific provisions, but on the general principle of the wisdom of a return to the legal use of silver coin we feel that it, or something like it, should become a law. The President is said to be against it; but we do not think he would veto any financial measure that could receive, under present circumstances, the approval of both branches of Congress.

AN ANALYSIS of the statistics of the voting population of Massachusetts, as tabulated by the State census report for 1875, is as significant as it is interesting. About two and one-half per cent. of the whole population are legal voters, forty-four per cent. voters and fifty-six per cent. ratable polls. The naturalized voters constitute 19.7 per cent., or 69,271 of the whole number of voters; and the number of native voters is 281,842, or 80.3 per cent. of the whole number. The native-born voters compose forty-seven per cent of the native-born males, and the naturalized voters thirty-five per cent. of the foreign-born males. Again, of the 297,997 native-born males over twenty years of age, over ninety-four per cent. are legal voters; while of the 161,885 foreign-born males over twenty years of age, 69,271, or forty-two per cent., are legal voters. These facts have an application to the recent Presidential vote of Massachusetts, where only about 250,000 votes were cast, or 100,000 less than the whole number of legal voters in the State. The political complexion of the State has been changing gradually during the past fifteen years. In 1872 GRANT had a Republican majority of 72,000 votes. HAYES' majority was about 40,000. The total vote cast for President was the largest ever cast in the State, yet the Republican majority was the smallest ever known, while the Democratic vote was the largest ever polled, touching 106,000, and being a gain of eighty-six per cent. on the whole vote, while that of the Republicans was less than thirty per cent. The reason of this is that the foreign-born voters and the naturalized voters came out in their strength and voted for the most part the Democratic ticket; and this element constitutes about forty per cent. of the voting population.

SAMMY'S PARDNER.

An Interview with Governor Hendricks—Why the Democracy Are Excited—The Object of the 8th of January Conventions—Backbone to be Furnished the House of Representatives—No Armed Resistance Contemplated, but Tilden Must be Inaugurated.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 20.—The *Journal* of to-morrow will contain an interview with Governor Hendricks, the leading points of which are as follows: The Governor said the men who elected Governor Tilden believe he was elected, and they are greatly excited at the possibility that he is to be deprived of the office and another to be inaugurated who was not elected, by means of party machinery anti-republican in its character, and even by disregard of the local laws in its organization, and by the fraudulent exercise of its power. They do not believe that under republican institutions it is possible that no inquiry can be made into the conduct of four men who undertook to control the Presidential election by fraudulent means. They believe that it is the duty of the Houses of Representatives to see that the proposed wrong is defeated, even should the Senate attempt to maintain it. The opinion prevailes generally, I believe universally, among them that the House of Representatives is clothed with equal power with the Senate in the decision of all questions which arise during the progress of the count of the electoral vote, and that it would be a usurpation in flagrant violation of the rights of the people should the vote be counted and questions decided by the presiding officer of the Senate in defiance of the rights of the House.

Governor Hendricks—The fact that this power above alluded to is claimed for the President of the Senate and its exercise by him is threatened, has greatly contributed to excite popular feeling. In this condition of the public mind the Democratic Committee of the State issued the call for the convention of the 8th of January, not for any purpose, as I suppose, of making any threats, or of organizing any resistance to authority, but for the purpose of making a public expression against threatened invasion of popular rights, and of giving the House of Representatives an assurance of support in the exercise of its constitutional rights and prerogatives. There is no purpose, so far as I am informed, of going further. In further answer to your inquiry, I do not regard force as a means to be contemplated in the present condition of affairs. The Court of January convention is concerned, I am very sure that its reliance, its only reliance to secure the results of the Presidential election, is upon the moral force and power of public opinion in support of the right and against the wrong, and in support of the House of Representatives in the exercise of its powers and its constitutional powers, as those powers have been declared in the uniform practice and in the adoption of the twenty-second joint rule and the message to the Senate of Governor Morton's bill at the last session. It is perhaps proper to add that, should the House positively assert its rights to go behind the count, and should that right be denied and refused by the Senate, supported by the Executive power, we would stand at the present moment, as serious dangers, not because of any party movements, but because of an conflict in the machinery of the Government which the votes of Edgefield and Laurens counties was thrown out for Governor, and the Assemblymen from those counties refused certificates. The Republicans of both branches of the Legislature had a joint caucus this evening, and agreed to adhere to the original resolution to adjourn *sine die* next Friday. Governor Chamberlain was present and approved of this course.

FLORIDA.

The Argument Before the Supreme Court —Proceedings of the House and Senate Committees.

New York Times Special.]

TALLAHASSEE, December 18.—The counsel for the Board of Canvassers filed to-day their amended answer to the alternate writ of mandamus, and the matter has been the subject of argument before the Supreme Court during the entire day. The amended answer sets forth the grounds upon which the board rejected or added votes, or otherwise went aside from the law in the canvass. Counsel for the Democrats demurred to the answer, with which demurrer Judge Emmons joined issue. The Democratic demurrants contended that the answer was no support of their demurrer to-day, and counsel for the canvassers will occupy the attention of the court to-morrow.

The Elden Investigating committee is still at work, but it is simply frittering away its time, for it has accomplished nothing. It will find it a difficult job to make out a case for Tilden in the light of the proceedings of the past week. The fact is that the frauds have all been confined to the Democratic party, and the committee by this time must know that be aware of this state of affairs. The committee will leave for Jacksonville on Wednesday morning.

The Senate committee commenced work this morning in the office of the Adjutant General, which has been placed at their disposal. The Democratic State Board has been called upon by it for all the testimony which was produced before the Canvassing Board, and a corps of clerks is at work copying it. The committee sat with closed doors to-day. The State canvassers were before it.

New York Times Special.]

TALLAHASSEE, December 19.—The Senate Investigating Committee concluded its examination of the State Board of Canvassers to-day. Attorney General Cocke testified that in 1874 the Board of Canvassers, on his written opinion, received evidence relating to returns, and canvassed them in the same manner as at this election, with the concurrence of Democratic lawyers. He also testified that his opinion is unchanged, and that he acted with the board this year in canvassing, and that this duty is enjoined by a law clearly constitutional. There is not much difference in the testimony of the three members of the board as to what took place. The Attorney General stated that he first was voted to throw out precinct No. 3 of Key West, but afterward, while the certificate was being made up, asked to change his vote. No change was made in the record. The committee then examined a large number of witnesses from Key West, and it was proved that several Democratic politicians, among others the officers of election, that in the midst of the canvass of the vote at midnight, one Democratic inspector took the ballot box off to their house, another keeping the key, and next morning they assembled at a sponge warehouse in another precinct and concluded the canvass. That morning votes were found in the box not discovered the night before, and a new tally list was made out. It was also clearly proven that the precinct was surrounded during the day by an armed mob of Democrats, who abused and drove off Republican challengers; that fifty Republicans were kept from voting, and that not even fifty per cent. of the colored people voted. The other precincts at Key West were larger than 3, and concluded their count before midnight. It was understood by such information as was given, when the board at No. 3 adjourned at midnight, that the county had gone Republican. The claim that it was Democratic was only made next day, after the Democrats had had an opportunity by adjournment to manipulate the returns from No. 3. The State law strictly prohibits any adjournment of the board after the canvass is commenced until it is fully completed.

Before the House Committee an attempt was made by the testimony of the Democratic County Judge to prove that there was a regular election in Manatee county, but his testimony only showed that the action of the State Canvassing Board in treating the election as a farce in the county was correct. No polling places or officers of election were appointed, no registration of votes was made, and the only notices of an election pretended to have been given were in Democratic stump speeches. In most of the precincts there was not a Republican vote cast in the county that usually gives a Republican majority.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Revolutionists Badly Whipped In New Granada.

NEW YORK, December 17.—The Panama *Star and Herald* of December 8th, received per steamer Andes, says: A great battle has taken place in Garrapata. The trenches of the revolutionists were taken by our forces, commanded by Generals Acosta and Camargo. An armistice of three days was asked for by the rebels to bury two thousand dead of both sides. Our forces cut off the retreat to Antioria from the rebels. If the rebels do not surrender at discretion, they will all remain in the power of our army.

On the 21st of November General Trujillo occupied Manizeales. The Adalina river transit is free. In thirty days more all will be over.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Another Act in the Great Farce.

Butler, Head Butcher at Hamburg, Declared Elected as U. S. Senator.

COLUMBIA, December 19.—In the Democratic House to-day, seventy-nine Senators and Representatives were present, this being a legal quorum of the joint assembly. A ballot was taken for United States Senators resulting in the election of M. C. Butler, he receiving sixty-four out of seventy-nine votes.

Nothing was done by the Republicans or the courts to-day of any interest. Everything is very quiet.

Special to the New York Times.]

COLUMBIA, December 19.—The curt correspondence that passed between Hampton and Governor Chamberlain yesterday, provokes a smile from all sides, but is regarded as having no other significance than that of putting Hampton in position to say that he has made a formal demand for the necessary installments of a Governor, and been refused.

The Democratic Senators united with the bogus Assembly to-day in a joint ballot for United States Senator, which resulted in the choice of General M. C. Butler, of Hamburg massacre notoriety, who is now under bonds to answer for his crimes before the United States District Court. They claim that the votes cast in joint ballot were sufficient to constitute a majority of the two full branches of the Legislature, and that the election is therefore legal; but no Senator was ever elected from South Carolina in this way before, and probably never will be again. The Hampton men have been very anxious to get a Senator by some hook or crook in order that they may, through him, get a decision from the United States Senate as to the status of their Legislature. When the testimony now being taken before the Senate committee is published, it is not likely that Butler will be permitted to take a seat in the Senate or in any other respectable legislative body, even if there was no dispute as to the legality of his election.

It now turns out that the one hundred dollars per head which was said to have been advanced by the Carolina Bank to pay the salaries of Hampton's Assembly-men was paid out of the Democratic political fund supplied by Tilden. Neither the Carolina nor any other bank has advanced a cent to any member of Hampton's pretended government. Only $400 altogether was paid out, and that was said to Republican Assemblymen who turned traitors and joined the Hampton House.

The House Investigating Committee today called as witnesses the secretary of State Hayne and Comptroller Dunn, members of the State Board of Canvassers, who testified to the manner in which the canvass was made, and exhibited returns. They proved that every precinct in the State except Robbins, where the Republicans had over 1,300 majority, was counted without reference to frauds in Edgefield county or elsewhere, and that the board gave the State as well as electoral ticket a clear majority. Judge Mackey also testified before the committee to-day that Hawley, the lowest elector, was justly entitled to the 695 votes that were not counted for him on account of a clerical error. This would bring the majority up to that of the other electors. Six members of the committee, divided into two sub-committees of three each, go to Charleston this evening, and the remaining three stay here. The two Republicans who go to Charleston are Judge Lapham and General Spofford. Mr. Lapham's legal knowledge has been invaluable to the Republicans. His views on legal points have prevailed before the committee in every instance. Judge Law rence, Republican, and Sayler and Abbott, Democrats, remain here to close the Republican testimony relative to the State canvass. W. H. Rice, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Laurens county, who gave evidence before the Legislature relative to frauds in that county when the vote for Governor was canvassed, arrived here to-day to testify before the Senate committee. He brought with him two rifle balls that were fired into his house last election night, and which dug out of the ceiling. Another ball was fired, but it was too deeply imbedded in the wall to be easily extracted. This is only a sample of the attempts at murder that are made almost daily against Republicans who are supposed to possess evidence implicating the Democratic rifle clubs.

Speaker Mackey is preparing and will give to the public, in a few days, a detailed statement of all the proceedings resulting in the organization of the present Legislature, showing its perfect legality and Constitutionality, together with the evidence on which the votes of Edgefield and Laurens counties was thrown out for Governor, and the Assemblymen from those counties refused certificates. The Republicans of both branches of the Legislature had a joint caucus this evening, and agreed to adhere to the original resolution to adjourn *sine die* next Friday. Governor Chamberlain was present and approved of this course.

CRAZY FOR MARRIAGE.

Singular Crime in Tennessee—A Man Shoots the Father of His Lady Love, Drags Her Over the Dead Body to a Minister's, and Demands to be Married to Her—Shoots Another Man, and Escapes.

MEMPHIS, December 19.—Yesterday L. S. Hill, an old and highly respected citizen, living four miles north of Smithy Depot, was shot and killed by Gaily Bond, under the following circumstances: Bond had been paying attention to Mr. Hill's daughter, and visited Mr. Hill an hour before the shooting. After some conversation on the subject of marriage, he would return in an hour. Bond went up to the house, procured a double barreled shot gun and returned to Mr. Hill's and shot Hill through the door of his own house, firing five pistol balls through his body after he fell from the effects of the shot. After seeing that he was down and dead, he seized the young lady, actually dragging her over the dead body of her father, and carried her by force before a neighboring minister and demanded to be married to her. The girl refused, when Bond threatened to kill her. The minister's wife called Bond's attention to the approach of a posse in pursuit of him. At this time some neighbors rode up to the minister's house, when the young lady was taken from Bond's presence and locked in a room, secure from any possibility of his carrying out his threats. Bond had been riding all the night previous, and had so jaded his horse that he required another one with which to make his escape. This he accomplished by deliberately shooting one of the three horses, and wounding him that he fell from his horse, which Bond mounted and rode to the residence of Mr. Harson, a few miles distant and made a forcible exchange for a fine young horse, on which he was last seen riding westward toward the Mississippi river, making good his escape so far from all pursuers.

OREGON.

Preparations for Firing the Democratic Heart—Grover's Elaborate Defense of His Usurpation of Power.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 19.—A Portland, Oregon, dispatch says: S. F. Billinger, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, has issued a call for a meeting of the committee at Salem on Thursday, 21st inst. The call has been issued in obedience to instructions received from the National Democratic Committee. The object and purposes of such meeting have not been made public. It is surmised the movement means a thorough organization to meet whatever emergency may arise in the future bearing upon the question of the peaceable or forcible inauguration of Tilden. Bellinger has not intimated in his call the object of the meeting, and the question is exciting much public comment and interest.

Governor Grover has just published a long and elaborately prepared statement of his proceedings relative to the recent electoral muddle in Oregon. The statement is designed by him as an executive decision, and is a studied defense of his official conduct. After discussing at great length the legal features of the case and citing numerous authorities in support of his position, the Governor concludes his statement as follows:

"Believing this to be the inevitable logic deducible from the law and the facts in the premises, I conclude that Watts is not entitled to a certificate of election, because the Constitution of the United States declares he shall not be appointed, and that Cronin is entitled to a certificate of election as one of the electors of the State, because he is the eligible candidate having the highest number of legal votes cast for that office next after the election of William H. Odell and John C. Cartwright, whose elections are not contested. Any other conclusion would disfranchise the State of Oregon as to one-third of her representation in the college of electors. To my mind it is a clear position that the injunction of the Constitution of the United States on the subject of it must be enforced, and that in maintaining it in this particular the result as above is declared."

THE SIOUX.

General Crook's Annual Report.

WASHINGTON, December 19.—General Crook's annual report says: The miners in the Black Hills did not violate the Sioux treaty till long after the Indians had ceased to regard it, and they have not suffered as much from the Sioux since they went to the Hills as they did while living on the border. He also calls attention to the fact that his command of less than one thousand fought and defeated Sitting Bull's band in the battle of the Rosebud, weeks previous to Custer's disaster. He seems to think the Government has treated the Sioux nation with unparalleled liberality, which they have repaid by raids along the border of the reservations, limited only by the endurance of their ponies.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1876.

Senator Morton's Report on Affairs in Indiana.

Senator Morton returned here on the late train last night. This morning he called upon the President, and was in conference with him for over an hour. The Senator recapitulated the information he had obtained during his flying visit to Indiana, showing the condition of affairs in that State. He said that considerable excitement existed throughout the entire State, and that it was evidently incited and fostered by the Democratic leaders; that

The Treasonable Organizations

Which had existed during the rebellion were revived, and that secret combinations were on foot, evidently having no peaceful object in view. He did not know to what extent their temerity might lead them, but that it would be well to keep a vigilant eye upon them. At present, however, he does not think that the movement has assumed formidable dimensions; that law-abiding citizens of both parties in the State would discountenance any attempt to disturb the peace of the country.

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Senator Wallace, in speaking of the political situation to day, said that he was in favor of all constitutional means of settling the Presidential question, but that he did not think that forcible measures would be advisable. He believed in moderation; that the better sense of the people and the business interests of the country demanded this. He thought that unnecessary agitation of the Presidential question at this juncture was inadvisable, and that he felt confident that the joint committee of the two Houses would find some way out of the difficulties. The committee will be appointed to-morrow.

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FLORIDA.

The Argument Before the Supreme Court —Proceedings of the House and Senate Committees.

New York Times Special.]

TALLAHASSEE, December 18.—The counsel for the Board of Canvassers filed to-day their amended answer to the alternate writ of mandamus, and the matter has been the subject of argument before the Supreme Court during the entire day. The amended answer sets forth the grounds upon which the board rejected or added votes, or otherwise went aside from the law in the canvass. Counsel for the Democrats demurred to the answer, with which demurrer Judge Emmons joined issue. The Democratic demurrants contended that the answer was no support of their demurrer to-day, and counsel for the canvassers will occupy the attention of the court to-morrow.

The Elden Investigating committee is still at work, but it is simply frittering away its time, for it has accomplished nothing. It will find it a difficult job to make out a case for Tilden in the light of the proceedings of the past week. The fact is that the frauds have all been confined to the Democratic party, and the committee by this time must know that be aware of this state of affairs. The committee will leave for Jacksonville on Wednesday morning.

The Senate committee commenced work this morning in the office of the Adjutant General, which has been placed at their disposal. The Democratic State Board has been called upon by it for all the testimony which was produced before the Canvassing Board, and a corps of clerks is at work copying it. The committee sat with closed doors to-day. The State canvassers were before it.

New York Times Special.]

TALLAHASSEE, December 19.—The Senate Investigating Committee concluded its examination of the State Board of Canvassers to-day. Attorney General Cocke testified that in 1874 the Board of Canvassers, on his written opinion, received evidence relating to returns, and canvassed them in the same manner as at this election, with the concurrence of Democratic lawyers. He also testified that his opinion is unchanged, and that he acted with the board this year in canvassing, and that this duty is enjoined by a law clearly constitutional. There is not much difference in the testimony of the three members of the board as to what took place. The Attorney General stated that he first was voted to throw out precinct No. 3 of Key West, but afterward, while the certificate was being made up, asked to change his vote. No change was made in the record. The committee then examined a large number of witnesses from Key West, and it was proved that several Democratic politicians, among others the officers of election, that in the midst of the canvass of the vote at midnight, one Democratic inspector took the ballot box off to their house, another keeping the key, and next morning they assembled at a sponge warehouse in another precinct and concluded the canvass. That morning votes were found in the box not discovered the night before, and a new tally list was made out. It was also clearly proven that the precinct was surrounded during the day by an armed mob of Democrats, who abused and drove off Republican challengers; that fifty Republicans were kept from voting, and that not even fifty per cent. of the colored people voted. The other precincts at Key West were larger than 3, and concluded their count before midnight. It was understood by such information as was given, when the board at No. 3 adjourned at midnight, that the county had gone Republican. The claim that it was Democratic was only made next day, after the Democrats had had an opportunity by adjournment to manipulate the returns from No. 3. The State law strictly prohibits any adjournment of the board after the canvass is commenced until it is fully completed.

Before the House Committee an attempt was made by the testimony of the Democratic County Judge to prove that there was a regular election in Manatee county, but his testimony only showed that the action of the State Canvassing Board in treating the election as a farce in the county was correct. No polling places or officers of election were appointed, no registration of votes was made, and the only notices of an election pretended to have been given were in Democratic stump speeches. In most of the precincts there was not a Republican vote cast in the county that usually gives a Republican majority.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Revolutionists Badly Whipped In New Granada.

NEW YORK, December 17.—The Panama *Star and Herald* of December 8th, received per steamer Andes, says: A great battle has taken place in Garrapata. The trenches of the revolutionists were taken by our forces, commanded by Generals Acosta and Camargo. An armistice of three days was asked for by the rebels to bury two thousand dead of both sides. Our forces cut off the retreat to Antioria from the rebels. If the rebels do not surrender at discretion, they will all remain in the power of our army.

On the 21st of November General Trujillo occupied Manizeales. The Adalina river transit is free. In thirty days more all will be over.

WASHINGTON.

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No Holiday Recess.

The majority in the House are not disposed to take a recess over the holidays, but favor an adjournment over Christmas and New Years, so as to be ready to take prompt action upon any requests from the committees now in the South.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 19, 1876.

Surrender of Black Hills by the Sioux.

The Sioux Commission have submitted to the President a treaty, which will probably be submitted to the Senate for ratification, relinquishing title to the Black Hills region, an area of twelve thousand square miles.

The Dispatches Must be Produced.

The sub-Judiciary Committee held two meetings to-day on the refusal of Mr. Orton to produce the telegraphic correspondence with Chandler and Hewitt, but arrived at no conclusion. It is intimated, however, that they will affirm the right of the House to require the production of telegraphic dispatches the same as they would require the production of letters and papers or oral testimony under the subpœna *duces tecum*. The sub-committee expect to report to-morrow. Orton is here, and stated that all the dispatches have been collected ready to be placed before the committee, if the action makes the demand of the House a matter of compulsion.

Joint Committee on Electoral Vote.

The composition of the joint committee of fourteen on the electoral vote is a subject of considerable speculation, as much hope is entertained of a satisfactory solution of the prospective difference between the two Houses, both as to the mode of counting and adjustment of controversies as to matters of interpretation of the law. It is admitted that upon the composition of both committees will depend the issue of their labors. In the Senate Messrs. Edmunds, Morton, Conkling, Frelinghuysen, Thurman, Kernan and Bayard are most prominently mentioned, and in the House Messrs. Tucker, Hunton, Hurd, Lord, McCrary and Seelye.

FLORIDA.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20, 1876.

The Texas Pacific Railroad.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads to-day discussed the Texas Pacific Railroad, and practically agreed to favorable action. The subject will be again considered to-morrow, and it is intimated that a bill will be prepared and reported at an early day to provide for the completion of that transcontinental route. The friends of the measure are quite sanguine of obtaining action at this session. It is the intention of the committee to further the matter so far as they are concerned.

The Proposed Memorial of Wade Hampton.

To Congress, setting forth his pretentions to the Executive office of South Carolina, and urging action, is generally approved by the Democrats, but the Republicans will in a great measure act in accord with the Administration on the question. A Cabinet officer, in speaking of this matter, said if he ever seriously contemplated such action with the expectation of influencing the Executive, it was extraordinary as the proposition of Hampton presented to the President some days ago through Hewitt. If Hampton should memorialize Congress, the House could do no more than give an expression of opinion, as it has no mandatory power as regards a question of law or policy on the part of the Executive. A sapient correspondent has alluded to the Brooks-Garland controversy in Arkansas, and the action of the President in that case, where he recognized one government, and subsequently transferred his recognition after the action of the House. In that case, as stated by the same Cabinet officer, the President had acted upon an appeal to him, but not finally, as he submitted the questions and papers to Congress for their action in the matter, which he followed. Hampton's appeal to him came would be to the House, having failed with the Executive. It requires great strength of the imagination to presume that the President would, under any condition, be influenced by a branch of Congress at variance with his administration. In the Arkansas case the Executive and Congress were in accord.

The Proposed Joint Committee.

The outlook for an early appointment of the special joint committee of seven from each House of Congress is not flattering. The Senate will await the naming of the House committee, on the ground that the resolution originated there, and Democrats also wish to see what its general character will be. Speaker Randall, it is stated, will await the action of the Senate. If this policy be adopted, the questions are as far from solution as ever. There has been some conferences on the subject in the House, without any definite results, except to indicate that a committee of moderate views should be designated. A Senator said to-day that there had been some informal discussing on this subject in the Senate, and every disposition shown to deal openly and fairly with the House.

The Sanctity of Private Correspondence.

The action of the House in the adoption of Knox's drag-net proposition that telegrams are not privileged, and authorizing committees to send for them, is but a part of the desperate measures by which the House hope to be able to secure a plausible apology for the failure of the select Southern committees to make out a case against the action of the returning boards. At the same time the Congressional committee in New Jersey refused to interpret out telegrams to throw light upon the way in which the Democrats carried New York. It is part of Democratic policy to be governed in matters of principle entirely by circumstances. Mr. Orton will present the telegrams asked for by Mr. Morrison, now that the House has assumed the responsibility.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 19, 1876.

INVESTIGATION AS TO ELECTORS.

The Senate sub-Committee of Privileges and Elections began to-day the investigation of the alleged ineligibility of General D. M. Frost, Democratic Presidential elector of the Third Missouri district. Thomas J. Throckmorton, member of the Missouri electoral college, testified that General Frost was not present at the meeting of the college when the votes for President and Vice President of the United States were cast, and the college filled the vacancy by electing LeGrange Atwood to act in place of General Frost. E. E. Sissel, Republican candidate for elector in the Third district, appeared and claimed the right to cast the vote on the ground that Frost was ineligible. He presented his claims to the college in writing, and they were tabled. The action of the college in filling vacancies was in accordance with the laws of Missouri. Charles E. Stifel testified that he made a demand on Governor Hardin to give him a certificate of election as Presidential elector for the Third district, as he had received the highest number of votes of any person eligible to the office in the district. He filed with the Governor papers setting forth his claims, and showing that General Frost was ineligible. The Governor stated he had issued a certificate of election to General Frost, but he ordered the Secretary of State to give Stifel a certificate of the official vote of the Third district. General George H. Shields, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, corroborated Stifel's testimony.

The sub-committee also examined Secretary of State Kelsey, of New Jersey, relative to the alleged ineligibility of Benjamin Williamson, but nothing new was elicited.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 20, 1876.

THE HOUSE CLAIMS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND PRIVATE TELEGRAMS.

A majority of the House Committee on Judiciary decided to day that special investigating committees have the right to send for telegraphic dispatches when, in the opinion of the committee, such dispatches are essential to the purposes of inquiry, or, in other words, that any committee's demand for telegrams, etc., must be complied with under penalty of being held in contempt of the House. This was, in substance, the position taken by Mr. Lynde, the Chairman of the sub committee to whom the subject was returned for report. Messrs. Hurd and McCrary reported that, in their opinion, the telegrams called for should be specifically described. In this view they were sustained by Messrs. Hoar and Frye, but Mr. Lynde's proposition was adopted by a vote five against four, the affirmative vote being cast by Messrs. Knott, Hunton, Ashe, Lynde and Caulfield. Messrs. Lord and

every impediment in the way of the Democratic Conservative party.

Twenty-first. That said board did, as the climax of said conspiracy, fraudulently cast not a large number of Democratic votes, say about 13,000, in some cases casting out whole parishes without justification, and in other parishes by false canvass. Decided, in other parishes, violating the law and even violating its rules and mode of proceedings, thereby accomplishing the result aimed at by such conspiracy.

Thirty-second. That amongst the electors by them declared elected was one O. H. Brewster, who at the time of his nomination and being voted for held an office of profit and trust under the Government, Viz: United States Surveyor General of the Land office for the District of Louisiana at the city of New Orleans, and one A. B. Levisee, who was at the same time an United States Commissioner, both said Brewster and Levisee being qualified and exercising the functions of said offices, which rendered them ineligible as electors under the Constitution of the United States, which declaration of election by said board was in the face of written protests and verbal objections.

Twenty-third. That in various parishes of the State there were cast a number of Republican ballots which bore only the names of three Republican electors, yet said board did count said ballots for the Republican electors, although the names of five of said electors did not appear thereon, and that the number of such ballots reached ei se on to three thousand, which was a fraud on the part of said Board.

[Signed] F. S. ZACHARIE,
H. C. BROWN,
CHARLES CAVANAC,
E. A. BURKE,
J. R. ALEX. GAUTHREAUX,
FRANK MCGLOIN,
of Counsel.

NEW ORLEANS, December 20.—Before the House committee to-day, George A. Branstropt was examined, and told a story of having been abused by colored men for voting the Democratic ticket.

Charles Cassanave, a member of the Returning Board, was examined at considerable length. He said in reply to a question that he would produce the papers of the Returning Board if the other members would agree to it; that they threw out the votes of two parishes, and those of several polls in other parishes, on account of intimidation before and during the election, and of irregularities in conducting the election.

General Thos. C. Anderson was recalled and presented a statement to the committee, saying it was the original statement, signed by all the members of the Returning Board, showing the vote for President-ial electors in the State—the aggregate vote, giving the parishes—and ordered the clerk to make out a complete statement of the vote by parishes to be filed with the Secretary of State, but didn't know whether it had been done or not; as we got through a parish we sent it to the clerk marked "compiled to be immediately entered on the list;" when polls were rejected, those polls were immediately entered and set to the clerk; we could not make a complete list of the vote by parishes in time to promulgate according to law; but ordered the clerk to do it afterwards; was absent when three parishes were being compiled by the board; the clerk made the addition of votes, leaving out the polls rejected; the report revised those additions. In the statement handed to the committee it is evident that figures and letters had been changed, which was explained by General Anderson, saying that some of the parishes had been misplaced by the clerk, but that he didn't remember whether any mistake occurred; that the clerk had satisfactorily explained it at the time; no one was present in the room where the board was working on the night before investigating, except members of the board and counsel, when brought in to give legal advice; witness produced a memorandum of polls rejected by the Returning Board, with reasons therefor. The list shows fifty-four polls in twenty parishes thrown out, and the parishes of Grant and East Feliciana.

In answer to interrogatories, General Anderson said: We made our compilations from the consolidated statement of supervisors of registration, and did not consider any returns made by the commissioners of election; if a supervisor made returns with three or four polls left out, we counted only those returned; rejected returns of commissioners; refused to receive evidence of certified copies of returns of commissioners of election filed in district courts; in raising the vote for electors in Madison parishe, we had the evidence of the commissioners of election showing that those electors received the number of votes given them; don't know which party received a majority at the polls thrown out; don't know that every poll thrown out gave a Democratic majority; don't know that the Supervisor of East Baton Rouge made his protest after making his returns to the board.

The Chairman read to the witness instruction to keep all the papers before the committee that were mentioned in the subpœna served on him, and said that the committee desired only to inspect the original documents, and that the board need not part with them; that the clerks of the committee had been at work eight days copying the originals and were not yet near through; and that it was necessary the committee should see the papers as soon as possible. The witness replied that he should submit the matter to the board, and send a communication stating that the board refused to give up the original papers as they were recorded for the inspection of the General Assembly only.

The Senate committee met at half-past eleven. The statement of votes rejected in each parish and at what polls rejected, was received from the Returning Board.

Senator McDonald made a motion that a subpœna *duces tecum* issue to the Returning Board for all protests and affidavits accompanying the returns of the canvassers of the various parishes, also for returns of commissioners of each poll in each parish.

Senator Howe, Chairman, said he could not understand why the figures and protests & affidavits which formed the basis of the action of the Returning Board could aid in this investigation, unless the committee proposed to review the action of the board in an appellate capacity.

Senator McDonald said it was not the province of the committee to determine anything. The committee wanted only the facts for the information of the body from which the committee derived its authority. The committee ought to know the facts upon which the board canvassed the votes, which, by their statement received, they admit they did reject. The question of calling for other documents of the Returning Board was discussed at length by the committee.

Benjamin James, a constable of Ouachita parish, testified that the United States marshal at the time of the election, testified to having been bulldozed on November 7th, by a large body of white men, armed with guns, who came with the ballot-box for Logtown precinct. He was shot in the arm and head, and robbed of his horse, revolver and ballot-box. No Republican meetings were allowed to be held in the parish, except when troops were present. The election was not, in his opinion, fair and peaceable.

Physicians' certificates were presented that Ellis Pinkston, of Logwood, colored, of Ouachita parish, were suffering so from wounds as to be unable to appear before the committee for examination. The Democrats asserted yesterday that Mrs. Pinkston had been seen running up the Custom House steps.

George Shelton, colored, of Ouachita parish, testified that he was shot by William Howard, white, on account of being a Republican, being shot in the left breast and twice in the right; that after being shot he went to a friend's house, who put him out on the gallery for fear the whites would come in and kill him; he also testified to general intimidation by the whites, and armed guarded the roads on the day of the election and broken up skiffs to prevent the blacks from going to the polls; he had voted the Democratic ticket at the election, but thought his heart would jump out of his mouth when he did so; other colored men had also voted the Democratic ticket at the instigation of leading Republicans to save their lives.

Jane Logwood, colored, testified: Am the wife of Eaton Logwood, of Ouachita; testified to the first or last Sunday in September, Captain Theobold, with ninety armed men, came to her house and asked for Eaton; she told them he wasn't there; Theobold said, "Tell him to come and see me or I'll kill him;" knew Theobold, George Phillips and A. Logan, but none of the others of the party; next Friday four men came and inquired for her husband Eaton; after they left she went down to the woods and told him he had better leave or he would be killed; next day Theobold's company came there and scoured the house, fields and adjacent woods for him; failing to find him, Theobold told witness to tell Eaton to come and see him next morning, or he would consider him a coward and kill him, as he had heard Logwood wanted the negroes to arm and whip his [Theobold's] company; they then left; on the 16th of September she saw Eaton at the house, and heard a gun fired; got up and started to the door, met Eaton, who said, "Give me my gun;" I told him to run, which he did; just after I heard another shot, and going out at the door met my brother-in-law, Primus Johnson, with his baby in his arms, who said: "Oh, my poor sister, I'm killed," and fell down dead; witness burst into tears; after a moment she continued: he was shot in the side; didn't see the man who did it; shortly after I saw on a lumber pile in the front yard Eaton shot; he was a Baptist minister; after her husband returned, Captain Theobold came to see them, said he was sorry for him, and sent for a doctor to dress his wounds; Captain Phillips and three other white men also came to see him; her husband said the Government of Mississippi rose for protection, and they guarded him eleven days afterward, and then took him to Monroe; her husband had twenty three acres of land and some mules; had no fire balls in his shoulder, one in his arm and one in his right side.

[NOTE—The committee heard a great mass of other testimony last evening; one colored woman testifying to having been whipped in order to make her disclose the hiding place of her husband, and had her person outraged after the whipping. This was done by the same gang of white Democrats that murdered Henry Pinkston and his child, and occurred but a very short time before. The crowded state of our columns prevents the publication of this testimony in full.—ED. COM.]

The loss by the fire in Little Rock is now stated at $150,000, and the insurance less than half. That surplus, within six weeks, lost $350,000 by fires, the origin of all of which is shrouded in mystery.

THE INDIANS.

Two Men Murdered and a Train Despoiled in Wyoming.

HOT CREEK, WY., December 20.—Four freight trains, accompanied by five men, were attacked by Indians in camp on Indian creek, six miles north of here, about three o'clock last night. Three of the party escaped and arrived here at midnight, barefooted and half clothed. A detachment of soldiers and a party of citizens returned to the scene of the fight early this morning, and found the bodies of the two men, B. C. Stephens, of Salt Lake, and a German named Fritz, from Colorado, horribly mutilated with a tomahawk; cleaver taken from one of the wagons. The contents of the wagons were scattered over the ground, flour and corn in piles as it had been emptied from the sacks. Six horses were missing, and over forty bullet holes were found in one wagon. The shells found are of Sharp's rifle cartridges. The dead were brought here and buried.

Two hundred and forty-eight Arapahoe and Sioux scouts from the agency, in charge of Louis Richards, a half-breed, passed here on Sunday *en route* to join Crook.

POSTOFFICE DEFALCATION.

The Chief Money Order Clerk Absconds With Some $8,000.

The community heard with astonishment Wednesday of a defalcation in the money order department of the postoffice. There were many rumors afloat as to the amount of the loss and the particulars of the affair, and, indeed, the amount abstracted is not yet definitely known, but cannot exceed $10,000, and may not be materially over. The *modus operandi* of the defaulting clerk, how he managed to cover up his tracks, is not yet known, but enough is to that no peculation has been discovered a period of some weeks, if not months.

THE DEFAULTING CLERK

is Mr. W. C. Wall, about thirty-four years of age and having a family. He has held the position of head clerk in the department for some two years past and for a number of years previously had held several subordinate positions. He commenced service in the postoffice as a letter carrier and was always believed to be attentive and trustworthy. Latterly, however, Wall is known by many to have been keeping bad company, not only of men but women, and from this in a great measure may his downfall be traced.

DISCOVERY OF THE DEFALCATION.

Colonel Negley has lately been in Washington transacting business with the department, and during this time it is believed the larger part of the money was stolen. On his return to Pittsburgh, some a day or two ago, his suspicions were directed toward Wall, and the pertinent inquiries and close examination of his accounts, disclosed to the latter that his detection was at hand. Wall accordingly prepared himself with all the funds he could gather on Tuesday, and yesterday failed to put in an appearance at the office. The state of affairs was evident, and information for emezzlement was at once made before United States Commissioner McCandless, who at once issued a warrant for Wall's arrest. The Chief of Police was informed of the matter, and the detectives went at once to work to discover whether the missing young man had left the city. So far as could be learned up to a late hour last night, it was the belief of the police that if Wall had left the city at all it was on foot.

AMOUNT OF THE LOSS.

As before stated the actual amount of the loss is not known, and cannot be until transcripts of returns are received from Washington. It is said that yesterday morning soon after the opening of the Tradesmen's National bank, the government depository, Wall had drafts cashed to the amount of $2,500, while report has it that Wall was seen on the street as late as half past ten o'clock. It is said that Wall burned a lot of papers and envelopes, but there may be ability to promptly ascertaining the amount of the loss. The bond of the missing clerk is for $3,000. Mr. William B. Tustin being surety.

The circumstance which first aroused suspicion against Wall, was the receipt of a letter from Uniontown, connecting Wall with the alleged conspiracy to rob the National bank of that place. This was received while Postmaster Negley was at Washington, and was opened by one of the subordinates in the Money Order Department, who supposed it contained official business. In addition to this it is said that Northam, one of Downer's companions, telegraphed to Wall on Saturday from Uniontown and asked that $120, he sent him. It is not believed that Wall had anything to do with Downer and his companions in their operations, but he is known to have frequented Downer's saloon.

HIRE IN GREENSBURG.

Considerable Destruction of Property—Fears of a Conflagration—Call on the Pittsburgh Department and Prompt Response Offered.

A destructive fire occurred Tuesday in Greensburg, particulars of which, so far as received, are given below. At about eight o'clock a telegram was received at the Fire Department headquarters, addressed as follows:

GREENSBURG, PA., December 19, 1876.

To Chief of Fire Department;

Come to our help immediately. Town on fire. No engines.

J. M. SMITH, Mayor.

In response, the operator on duty sounded box 10, being the Central Office, on the alarm bell, and this brought Chief Engineer Weiss and Assistant Chief Evans.

That no delay might ensue, engine company No. 3, with the Hays steam engine and eighteen hundred feet of hose was ordered to the depot, but meantime the Chief telegraphed as follows:

PITTSBURGH, December 19, 1876.

J. M. Smith, Mayor:

What water facilities have you? What is the extent of the fire?

W. J. WHITE, Chief Engineer.

By the time the railroad trucks were ready to take on the hose and engine, an answer to the Chief's dispatch was received, which rendered the trip unnecessary and the company and apparatus was ordered home. The dispatch was as follows:

GREENSBURG, December 19, 1876.

Chief of Fire Department, Pittsburgh:

Water facilities very poor; fire under control by fortunate change of wind; don't come now.

J. M. SMITH, Mayor.

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

A dispatch received last night gives the following details of the conflagration:

The fire broke out in Stark's extensive carriage manufactory about half-past seven this evening, and, spreading rapidly, threatened for a time the destruction of the whole town. The citizens of the place were quickly aroused, and the two hand engines constituting the fire department of the town being useless from frozen valves, lines of buckets were formed and every effort made to stop the destruction. Notwithstanding the exertions made, the carriage works were soon reduced to ashes, the fire spreading to the residence and resi dence of Dr. Jamison and also the building occupied by John M. Steel, hardware merchant, as store and residence, and owned by Henry Welty, all of which were considerably damaged and stripped of fencing, outhouses and woodwork.

At nine o'clock, owing to a fortuitous change of wind, the fire was gotten under control and confined to the above named premises.

The loss, as nearly as can be learned, is as follows: Stark's carriage manufactory, $25,000; insured for $20,000. Dr. Louison's stables, $800; insured for $300; residence of same damaged $400; no insurance. Henry Welty loses a building worth $2,000; no insurance. John M. Steel, hardware, $1,500; partially insured.

The cause of the fire is unknown, and supposed by some to have been the work of an incendiary.

GREEN, THE MURDERER.

A Second Death Warrant Read to Him Friday.

The warrant from Governor Hartranft for the execution of Wm. Green was received by Sheriff Fife Friday and read to the prisoner about two o'clock in the afternoon, in the office of the county jail. The warrant fixes Monday, the 12th day of February next, between the hours of ten A. M. and three P. M., as the time of execution. Green, it will be remembered, was tried before Judge Sterrett and convicted of the murder of his half brother, Samuel Rankin, near Mansfield borough. Subsequently the indictment was lost, but it was supplied by oral testimony, and the prisoner was sentenced to death. Green was stated in his mission and proceeded to read the document, the prisoner meanwhile showing a calm demeanor, betraying no excitement whatever. When he had finished reading the warrant the Sheriff admonished the prisoner to prepare for death, saying that, although efforts were being made by his friends to procure a commutation of his sentence to imprisonment for life, the result was a matter of great uncertainty; indeed there was every reason to hope that the efforts put forth by his friends would be successful. Green replied that he was fully prepared to die. He felt that he had made his peace with God, and if he could not get justice in this world he knew he would in the next. If it was God's will he should suffer death for saving his life, he would submit without complaining, hard as it was.

The prisoner was removed to his cell, where he will be kept until he is led forth to the gallows. It has not yet been decided where the execution will take place, but it is thought it will be in the space between the Treasurer's office and the right wing of the jail. The yard lately used for this purpose is now occupied by the new office of the Prothonotary.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 20, 1876.

Financial affairs retain their accustomed position of ease and quiet with a little tendency to improvement as the close of the year draws near. This is hardly decided enough to base any prognostications on, however, nor is it likely to develop into such importance as to produce any effect on the present plethoric condition of the banks. All the first class applications for banking accommodations are met with out any difficulty, though bank officers and discount boards are as much disposed as ever to scrutinize all doubtful or unknown paper with extreme severity. Rates rule easy at 7@9 per cent. on prime commercial paper at the banks, and 6@7 per cent. on prime collaterals. The entire condition of monetary affairs is unchanged and is likely to remain so until after the first of the year, when the new banks open their doors.

—The New York *Herald* says of the market for Government bonds: These, while depressed in the early part of the week, subsequently advanced in sympathy with the rise in gold and obedient to a strong home demand by private and public investors, who generally avail themselves of low prices to make their investments. The half yearly gold interest to be paid out on Government stocks January 1 is as follows:

On sixes, 1881	$3,300,450
On sixes, 1867	310,6 2,750
On sixes, 1865	2?,053 00
On sixes, 1868	57,475,80
Total January interest	$20,943,33

—The Philadelphia bank statement of averages for the past week, as compared with that of the previous week, shows an increase in loans of $16,968, in specie of $6: 1 6, and in due from banks of $264,772. The reserve showed the very heavy loss of $1,980,318, national bank notes $233 159, due to banks $3:8,310, deposits $1,435,7:2, and circulation $5,272. The most significant features in this return are the items of reserve and deposits. The business at bank was to a moderate extent, the clearings showing an increase of $115,696 and the balance a decrease of $1,036,862. The financial situation continues the same as for a month past. The demand for money at Philadelphia is light and the rates realized for its use low.

—The New York *Journal of Commerce* says: There has been a change of officers of the Gold Exchange Bank, and a reduction of capital to $250,000 is proposed. Some dissatisfaction is expressed in the Gold Room at the change, and the Executive Committee have under consideration the propositions of several of the banks to close the transactions of the room on terms which will doubtless be entirely satisfactory to members of the exchange. The subject will be fully considered at a meeting to be held on Thursday afternoon.

—The Purchasing Committee of the Toledo, Wabash and Western Railway Company give notice that time for taking the new stock will expire on the 23d (Saturday). The stock is coming in at the rate of 7,000 or 8,000 shares daily, but the time is short and the committee wish to give ample notice to the shareholders, that they may not lose the privilege secured in the basis of subscription for the old stock on subscription.

—The Comptroller of the Currency holds that the national banking system in this country is superior to any system ever established before in the United States, and that it equals in efficiency and strength the principal systems of banking established in Europe. The same opinion has been again and again uttered in these columns.

—The Solicitor of the Treasury has rendered an opinion that investments in District of Columbia 5 65 bonds are exempt from the semi-annual taxation of bank capital.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 29, 1876.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	107¼	107¼	107¼	107¼	107¼	107¼
5-20's, 5 6's, 1881, coup.	117	117	.....	.....	.....	117¼
5-20's, 1865	109	109	.....	.....	.....	109
5-20's, 1865, new	112¾	112¾	.....	.....	.....	112¾
5-20's, 1867 registered	112¾	112¾	.....	.....	.....	112¾
5-20's, 1867	112¾	112¾	.....	.....	.....	112¾
5-20's, 1868, registered	112¾	112¾	.....	.....	.....	112¾
5-20's, 1868	.....	113¼	.....	.....	.....	113¼
10-40's	117¾	117¾	.....	.....	.....	117¾
10-40's, coupons	117¾	117¾	.....	.....	.....	117¾
Currency 6's	121¾	121	.....	.....	.....	121
New York Central	114¾	114¾	.....	.....	.....	114¾
Western Union Tel	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾
Quicksilver	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pacific Mail	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Adams Express	101	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wells-Fargo Express	88	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
American Express	55	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States Ex	53½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New York Central	104¼	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erie	9½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. preferred	17½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harlem	136	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Michigan Central	40¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Panama	125	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lake Shore	59¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Illinois Central	68	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ohio and Miss	20¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Northwestern	36¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. preferred	56¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
C., C., C. & I	67¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. J. Central	34	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

*Ex-dividend.

GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	117½	New 5's	111¼
5-20's, 1865, new	112¾	10-40's, Registered	117¾
5-20's, 1867	112¾	10-40's, coupons	117¾
5-20's, 1868	117½	Currency 6's	121

STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	41	Virginia, old	39
Tennessee, new	40¾	Missouri 6's	107¾
Virginia, new	29		

LONDON, December 20, 5 P. M.—The steamer Adriatic, which sails for New York to-morrow, takes out $250,000 in specie. Silver 56¾d per ounce. Consols 94 1-16. United States bonds—new 5's 104¾; 5-20's, 1865, 107¾; do. 1867, 107½; do. 1868, 106½. Railroad securities—New York Central 102; Erie 9¾; preferred 18.

PARIS, December 20.—Rentes 104 francs 95 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 20.—United States bonds—New 5's 101¾.

NEW ORLEANS, December 20.—Gold 108¾@108¾. Sight exchange on New York per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 51?½.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 20, 1876.

An upward tendency is noticeable in some departments of general trade, but on the whole there is little reason to deviate from the statements of trade heretofore and recently made. The markets are quiet, and demands and prices about the same as those last reported. The stir, such as it is, in the flour market, continues, but does not create any remarkable activity. The different kinds of flour and grain we still quote as below.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since those named yesterday are the following:

Flour, bbls	993	Wheat, bus	1,110
Corn, bus	400	Butter, pkgs	61
Oats, bus	450	Bacon, lbs	25,000
Rye, bus	400	Bacon, tcs	25
Oats, bus	2,920		

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks:

	Last week	Two weeks	Total
Flour, bbls	7,??	8,??	15,?03
Apples, bbls	6??	??	69?
Chickens, lbs	1,3??	1,??	1,??
Corn, bus	8,??	4,4??	13,?8
Wheat, bus	2,6??	8,??	10,?0?
Barley, bus	8,0??	4,??	12,?2?
Rye, bus	3,?1	1,??	4,???
Oats, bus	11,?91	14,5??	25,?2?
Butter, pkgs	??	??	??
Bacon, pcs	10,5??	17,??	27,?0?
Bacon, lbs	16?,??	?,??	?,??
Potatoes, bus	???	6??	1,??
Hay, tons	9??	8??	1,??

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—We have to report again the figures printed yesterday, with a slight change in rye. To begin with wheat, we quote prime Ohio and Pennsylvania red at $1 49@1 47 ₱ bushel; amber do $1 45; white $1 45@1 50. Corn is still in good demand and sells readily at former quotations, though there are some large receipts reported. Sales of yellow ear afloat at 55c ₱ bushel for prime yellow and high mixed; new ear at 52@53c; prime new shelled 52@53. Oats remain at 40@42c ₱ bushel for No. 2 white; mixed 38@39c. Rye is in good supply and rather dull and quoted at 73@75c. Barley is unchanged and quoted at 75@?0c for good to prime spring; prime fall $1 05@1 10; choice grades for brewing, $1 15@1 20.

FLOUR—As we have said is quite active. We quote No 1 white wheat flour at $7 45@7 50 ₱ barrel; No 2 do $7 25@7 35; extra family flour $6 50@6 75; in sacks 25c less ₱ barrel. The following are the prices of the different brands as follows: Choice brands of red winter wheat flour $6 50@6 75; white wheat flour $7 25@7 35; Minnesota $6 50@6 75; family flour $5 75@6 25; St. Louis $6 75@? 25; Graham flour $6 50@6 75; cornmeal 70c ₱ bushel; oatmeal $5 75 ₱ barrel; rye flour $4 25@4 50 ₱ barrel.

HAY—There is nothing new to report, for there is scarcely anything done in that article at present and we continue to quote loose from wagon at $12 00@13 00 ₱ ton. Baled for New York at $14 00@14 50 in quality and condition. Prairie—Up and $10 00@12 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

MILL FEED—Is quiet at the following rates: Bran $?3 00@24 00 per ton; middlings $?0 00@?2 00; screenings and shipstuffs $14 00@17 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—Apples are dull with prices as follows: Common ?5c@$1 25 ₱ bbl; prime $2 25@2 50.

APPLE BUTTER—Is dull also, and held at 4½@5c ₱ gallon.

BEESWAX—Dull and quoted at 28@30c ₱ ₱.

BUTTER—As scarce in a quiet market at $1 00@1 10 for prime and choice.

CHEESE—The market is about steady at unchanged prices. Strictly fresh are scarce at 2? cents ₱ dozen; pickled are large supply and quoted at 20@25c.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 60@65c in small lots; for larger quantities 50@60c.

GAME—There is still a good supply in the market, and prices rule about as last reported. We quote as as follows: Venison—saddles 12@ 15c ₱ ₱; do hams 18@20c ₱ ₱; whole deer 10 @12c ₱ ₱. Quail $? 50 per dozen. Prairie fowl $4 00@5 00 per dozen. Pheasants $3 00@3 50 per dozen. Rabbits 75c per dozen.

HONEY—We report a fair trade demand for new California at 22@23c ₱ ₱; domestic 20c ₱ ₱.

NUTS—Are in good supply and the market is easy. We quote chestnuts at 4@5c ₱ bushel; walnuts 4@5c ₱ bushel; shellbarks $1 50@1 75.

ONIONS—Have been somewhat disturbed, and the quotation now is $1 75@2 00 ₱ barrel.

POTATOES—Are very active, and the supply not large. Prime Peachblows from store are now held at $1 25@1 50 ₱ bushel. The lower grades are held at 90c@$1 00. Sweet potatoes are not in market.

VINEGAR—There is a moderate demand at 16 @18c ₱ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

WOOL—New crop, active and quoted at 35@ 38c ₱ ₱.

Provisions.

Business in the leading staples of hog products is steady though rather slow at unchanged prices. The tendency in pork and lard is somewhat in the direction of strength while the stocks are steadily reduced.

BACON—The market is steady. Jobbing quotations are as follows: Shoulders ?c ₱ pound; sweet hams 12c ₱ pound; plain do 11c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams were easy at 12c ₱ ₱ for extra sugar-cured. Shoulders fact on 6½c ₱ ₱. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9½c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 14½c. Beef tongues, ₱ dozen, are quoted at $5 50.

LARD—Demand fair and market steady. We quote refined lard in tierces 11¾c ₱ ₱; in half barrels 12c ₱ ₱; in 5-lb cans 13c ₱ ₱; in 3-lb cans 13½c ₱ ₱; in 5-lb pails 14c ₱ ₱; in 2-lb pails 14½c ₱ ₱; in kegs 12c ₱ ₱. Leaf lard is in tierces 11c ₱ ₱.

LARD OIL—The market is quiet. We quote best make of extra at 90@95c; current make 75c@$1 00; No 1 at 60@65c; No 2 at 50@55c; off white winter, 58@60c; yellow winter, 53@55c.

MESS PORK—Is firm and higher at $15 00 per barrel.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' city rendered at 6½@6?c; country 6c@6½c ₱ ₱; rough 5½@6c ₱ ₱.

Groceries.

The market in staple and fancy groceries show somewhat of an increase in activity, which is principally attributed to the approaching of the holidays, which continue remarkably active and firm, the advance of last week being fully sustained. The advices from Rio Janeiro have, as well as the scarcity of coffee in New York and a good demand, created a holders' feeling to maintain prices. The statistical position remains substantially the same as last year, still being in importers' favor. Sugar is quiet and unchanged. Molasses is firmer here, while raw sugar is very dull in New York, with a decline and a little business done. The following is a statement of the statistical position at New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore on the 1st January, 1876, and 1877 (from reports): Stock December 16, 1876, 20,808 tons; stock December 16, 1875, 47,504 tons; stock loss same time last year, 26,696 tons; receipts since January 1st, 538,914 tons; same time last year, 625,310 tons; deficiency since January 1st, 86,396 tons; same time last year, 626,401 tons. Molasses is dull and rather lower, although the New Orleans market is firmer and prices are about 2c during the early part of the week. Teas are in good demand and steady, while spices, soaps, etc., are quiet and unchanged. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ ₱.	*Sugars.*	₱ ₱.
Fancy Rio	21½c	Standard A	11¾@11¾c
Choice Rio	20½c	Standard B	11¼@11½c
Prime Rio	20c	Do. extra C	11¼@11½c
Good Rio	19½c	Yellow C	10¾@11c
Ordinary Rio	19½c	C—yellow	9¾@10¼c
Java	30½c	Franklin	9¾@10¼c
Roasted Coffees.		Powdered	12½c
Rio, in papers	26½c	Cut Loaf	12½c
Rio, grades 2 to 4	24 @25c	Crushed	12½c
Rio, in bulk	24 @26c	Powdered	12½c
Java, in papers	32½c	Granulated	11½c
Java, in bulk	30 @31c	Coffee	9½@10c
Teas.		Strv'ch. N. O.	60@62c
Young Hyson	25c@$1 00	Prime	50@58c
Gunpowder	30@90	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30c@ 90	Ex. white drips	64@65c
Oolong	25c@ 85	Sugar drips	55@60c
Oolong	25c@ 85	Lower grades	20@45c
Fancy do	1 00	*Starch.*	
Souchong	28c@ 1 00	Pearl	3½@3¾c
Spices (whole.)		Silver gloss	3½@4c
Cloves	15 c	Corn	7½@10½c
Allspice	17 c	*Rice.*	
Cassia	39@31 c	Choice Carlina	6½@7c
Nutmegs	75c	Fair to prime	?@?½c
Pepper	18 c	Rangoon	? c
Soaps.		Louisiana	6 c
Castile, ₱ box	9 @10	*Soda.*	
S. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75	Bi-carb, in kegs	4½c
Babbitt's best, ₱ box	5 75	Bi-carb, in ₱ ₱	5c
Gold Dome	6 25	Bi-carb, in ₱ ₱	5½c
Extra olive do	3 80	*Candles.*	
Sun, N. Y., 1 ₱	6 ?5	Star, full wt	16 c
Imported	11@13 c	Star, short wt	15 c
California, ₱ box	4 20	Mould	10c

FISH—The market is moderately active with fair demand and unchanged prices. Inspections are as follows:

	Per bbl		Per bbl
Extra No. 1 Mass mackerel	$27 00	Round herring	$6 00
Extra No. 1 shore do	17 00	Split Labrador do	7 50
Extra No. 1 bay do	17 00	Split Labrador do	6 50
Extra No. 2 large do	12 00	Lake Herring, do	2 25
No. 2 mackerel	11 00	Lge Georges cod	
Large No. 3	11 00	Pickerel, do	6
No. 3 mackerel	9 00	Medium Georges	5¾
No. 3 shore do	9 00	Medium Bay	5¼
Whitefish, hf-bbls	5 00	No. 1 Herring, ₱ box	1
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—Are in a moderate demand. We quote as follows: Raisins—Layers, new, per box, ₱ 25 lbs: London layers, new, ₱ ₱ 25 lbs; Valentias, new, 10½c ₱ ₱. Currants 7½c. Citron 30c. Prunes 9½c. Almonds—Languedoc 23c; do shelled 35c; do Princess 30c. Walnuts—Grenoble, do 22c. Naples—$5 75 ₱ bbl; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 13c. Smyrna figs, new, 18c. Brazil nuts 10c. Mexican 11@12c. Filberts 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ₱ box, $5 00. Oranges—Florida $5 50 ₱ hundred. Cocoanuts $? 50 ₱ hundred.

LARDEN GOODS—Are firm and unchanged. Quotations vary. We quote green peas, ?5 cans per doz, at $1 ?5@1 40; tomatoes, ?5 cans per doz, at $1 ?5; gooseberries do $1 30; pineapples do, $2 20; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 3 ₱ cans per doz, $2 ?5@3 00 do, $2 00; pickles, bbls, $5 50; half-bbls, $3 00.

Petroleum.

December 20.—The refined market was dull. Prices in the East were weak and sales of spot were made at a decline of 2c per gallon; futures were nominally unchanged. The decline in the European market has caused a simular movement in the East. At New York spot was 30c offered for this month and early January, and 27½c for February; cases 34@35c. At Philadelphia and Baltimore refined rules at 30c for December; 29c for first half of January, and 27c for the first half of February. Refined in this market was dull with light demand at 27c; to the home trade and 25c for export. How long these prices will be maintained would be difficult to guess.

EARNINGS, December 20, 5:50 P. M.—The crude oil market has been further depressed to-day, prices declining 12½@18c per barrel. United and Condult opened at $3 70, and with slight fluctuations gradually declined to $3 55, the present prices, which represent the extreme of the market was heavy, and no disposition on the part of buyers to sustain it. Shipment neglected; refiners asking 24@25c above certificates, with a few transactions at these rates. Union 75@? 5c below Condult and United. Shipments from the lower district for Tuesday 40,533 barrels.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

NEW YORK, December 20, closing 19.—The market has reacted further and closed weak and unsettled with exporters holding off and rather freer offerings. We quote New York delivery as follows: Crude in bulk 16c; in barrels 18c; city naptha 15 casked in shipping order; refined in barrels 30c for late December; 29c for first half of January, and 27½c for first half of February; cases 39@37c. At Philadelphia and Baltimore refined rules at 30c for December; 29c for first half of January, and 27c for first half of February.

TITUSVILLE, December 2?—Market nominally at $3 ?6.

OIL CITY, December 20.—Market dull, weak and declining; $3 6?½ bid, $3?5 asked for United; immediate shipment $3 ?7@3 ?8.

ROUSEVILLE, December 20.—Market quiet and weak at $3 ?0@3 ?5.

PARKERS, December 20—Market quiet; held at $3 85.

PARKERS, December 20—Market weak and nominal; United $3 57½ bid; shipment nominally $3 60.

PHILADELPHIA, December 2?—Market steady; crude in bulk 15c; in barrels 18c; standard white 30c for December; 29c for January; casts 35c.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, December 20—Petroleum dull; crude 8½c; refined 20c; city naptha 13c.

BALTIMORE, December 20—Petroleum—Crude easier at 7½@8c; refined nominally 31c.

LIVERPOOL, December 20.—Refined petroleum 2?d; spirits do 14@15d.

LONDON, December 20.—Refined petroleum 20d.

ANTWERP, December 20.—Refined petroleum 27 francs.

Dry Goods.

The tendency of the season is to stimulate considerable activity into the demand for flannels, woolen goods and other seasonable fabrics, which have swelled up into a fair aggregate this week. Prices are steady and wholly unchanged from our last quoted below, with the exception of the driver which one prominent jobbing house is making on Berkshire ginghams. It is expected that this line of business will reach a large aggregate over last week,

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1876.

TILDEN threatens that if HAYES is inaugurated, he will worry and annoy the Administration for the next four years; but as barking dogs do not bite, the threat does not amount to much.

THAT dirty creature, JULIAN, of Indiana, boldly proclaims that "if the Democracy show the white feather now he will have no political association with them in future." Where in this world will he go? There is no other party that will associate with *him*.

THE suits against the canal ring in New York have come to naught and have been practically abandoned. Now that TILDEN is defeated there is no longer any reason for keeping up a show of Democratic opposition to Democratic stealing.

THE Democrats of New York are said to be circulating petitions in favor of reannexing this country to England. These people are like that distinguished Democrat, INGERSOLL, of Philadelphia, who said that if he had lived in the time of the Revolution he would have been a Tory.

TILDEN threatens to open a Presidential shop in New York if he can't hang out his sign in Washington. The political excitement affects him to such a degree that in the event of his failure to be inaugurated fears are entertained of a mental and physical collapse similar to that which befel HORACE GREELEY four years ago. Evil counsellors are doubtless at the bottom of TILDEN's malady.

A LUZERNE county jury has found FRANK BEAMISH guilty of forgery. BEAMISH was Sergeant-at-Arms of the late Democratic State Legislature, and will serve as such until his successor is elected; and he was also a Democratic candidate for Senator at the late election in that county. He was not elected, but his party supported him, with the full knowledge that he would be a successful candidate for the penitentiary.

AMONG the interesting facts developed by the census report of Massachusetts for last year, just published, is that the factory population of that State has changed three times in thirty years, from American to Irish and largely from Irish to French-Canadian, always with an increasing density of ignorance. The cotton industry represents $77,000,000 of annual products to $113,000,000 in the leather business and over $600,000,000 in all.

THE defalcation of a bank president in Belgium indicates that such disgraceful events happen as well in Europe as in America, and that dishonesty is as rife outside of political circles as within them. The current theory is that all the corruption in the world is confined to politics; but a little reflection will satisfy any one that there is a great deal of human nature in man, and that it will crop out in one position as well as in another.

THE advance in freights decided upon by the trunk lines last Saturday has already had a marked effect on the grain trade and stocks. The breadstuffs trade was instantly brought almost to a stand-still, while the report of stocks also shows that though this consummation had been anticipated for a long time and partially discounted, yet the market advanced quite sharply on Pennsylvania, followed in part by the rest of the list in sympathy.

IT has been discovered that, under the act of 1795, the President has power to call out the State militia at any time for the purpose of putting down a rebellion or repelling a foreign invasion. It has also been discovered that the Republican Governors are well aware of this power, and that Washington can be filled with State troops within thirty-six hours after a call upon them. These facts have most probably tended to sober the calculations of the would-be Democratic rebels.

GETTING down to hard pan. There are, it is stated more changes, removals and withdrawals to take place in the Philadelphia dry goods trade on the 1st of January next than have occurred in many years. They are not in the jobbing or retail departments, as might generally be expected, but among the wholesale and large commission houses, the removals generally being to reduce rents, and the withdrawals of branch houses to lessen expenses.

THERE is a steady advance in our breadstuffs trade with Europe. In 1867-8 the total exports of breadstuffs from this country was only 14,597,000 bushels. In 1876, from January 1st to December 5th, 23,048,000 bushels of wheat and 16,232,000 bushels of corn were exported from New York alone. The total shipments of all kinds of grain from that port during the period named reached 70,234,000 bushels, including flour as wheat. This is a remarkable increase.

GOVERNOR HAYES received the largest vote ever polled for a Republican candidate for the Presidency. In 1860 LINCOLN received 1,866,452 votes; in 1864 he received 2,213,665; in 1868 GRANT received 3,053,111; in 1872 he received 3,597,132; in the recent election HAYES received, according to present returns, 3,743,013. There is to be added to this total about 300,000 negro votes in the South out of which Governor HAYES was cheated by the Southern Democrats.

THERE are strong indications of a breakup in the Democratic ranks. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* says the caucus committee are mad at the National Committee of the party over the repudiation by the latter of an address the former had prepared, the advocates of the Silver bill are angry at HEWITT for his opposition to that measure, and there is a general disaffection among old heads like WOOD, of New York; JONES, of Kentucky; SWAN, of Maryland, and others, because the Speaker lets SPRINGER, the Illinois blatherskite, run him.

IN 1801 the vote for President was a *tie* between JEFFERSON and BURR. JEFFERSON was Vice President from 1797 to 1801, and *opened* and *counted* the electoral votes as such, and declared the tie between himself and BURR. The House chose JEFFERSON for President and BURR was made Vice President, but the latter nourished a deep resentment at his defeat, which ended in his subsequent trial for treason. His fate is a warning to TILDEN, for if TILDEN follows the surly, resentful example of BURR he will most surely put his feet into a trap.

FOR the first thirteen Presidential elections the President of the Senate, under instructions of the Congress, issued certificates to the successful candidates for President and Vice President, stating over his own signature that he [the President of the Senate] had *opened and counted* the electoral votes, and that he [the successful candidate] was elected. This was the practice from the very beginning of the Government, and as it has the sanction of those who framed and thoroughly understood the Constitution, the present acting Vice President can, with great propriety as well as safety, follow so well established a precedent.

THE bulldozing operations of the Democracy in the Southern States entail an expense of $71,000 on the Federal treasury, that being the amount appropriated to meet the expenses of the investigating committees of the Senate and House. We protest against this unnecessary expenditure of the public money. Everybody in the country knows what the character of the Democratic report will be. It will claim that there is a conspiracy to cheat TILDEN out of an election, and that there has been no fraud or intimidation except by Republicans. The Republican report, on the other hand, will show—what has, indeed, been repeatedly shown already—that a very large part of the legitimate Republican vote was kept from the polls by practices which would disgrace a Bashi-Bazouk—and the people will be just where they are now, so far as results upon the public mind are concerned.

THE OREGON CASE.

Considering the great fuss made by the Democrats over the right of Governor GROVER, of Oregon, to decide as to the eligibility of electors in that State, it is somewhat odd that they have never troubled themselves to look at the act of Congress on the subject. The law of Congress in relation to Presidential elections provides (see section 136 or the Revised Statutes of the United States) as follows:

It shall be the duty of the Executive of each State to cause three lists of the names of the electors of such State to be made and certified, and to be delivered to the electors on or before the day on which they are required, by the preceding section, to meet.

It is provided by another section that one of these lists shall be attached to each of the three certificates of votes for President and Vice President which the electors are required to make—one certificate to be forwarded by messenger to the President of the Senate, another to be forwarded to him by mail, and a third to be given the District Judge of the United States of the district wherein the electors meet.

The New York *Evening Post*, to which we are indebted for the facts here given, points out that this act of Congress does not once mention the *Governor* as the party to issue these certificates. On this subject it says:

The words of the law which we have quoted will correct any mistaken notions, more or less prevalent, in respect to the power and duty of the Governor in the matter. It is often and loosely said that the Governor is required to certify to the appointment of the elect ors. The law does not say so. It is worth noticing that the word "Governor" does not occur in it. It says it shall be the duty of the "Executive" of the State to do so and so; and the reason for using that word is obvious. The Constitution or laws of the United States do not prescribe for the State the officer by whom its executive power shall be exercised. The State Constitution and laws might provide for an executive council of more than one officer; or they might provide that particular acts shall be done by particular executive officers. Evidently the Federal law intended to let the States provide by their own laws for this act of authentication of electoral votes. The States have done so. The laws of New York, for example, provide as follows:

"The Secretary of State shall prepare three lists of the names of the electors; procure to the same the signature of the Governor, affix thereto the seal of the State, and deliver them, thus signed and sealed, to the President of the college of electors [which met on the said first Wednesday in December."

The laws of Oregon, we believe, contain substantially the same provision. *Evidently, for this purpose, the "Executive" of the State is the Secretary of State as well as the Governor. The seal of the State has at least as much weight as the signature of the Governor.* The terms of the law determine beyond question the purely ministerial function of the Governor—a function which he shares with the Secretary of State, and with him has but conclusive witness, the State's seal.

The HAYES electors, in Oregon, who were unquestionably elected, while they lack the *Governor's* certificate, *had*, before they proceeded to vote for President, a transcript of the electoral vote of the State as canvassed in the presence of the Governor, and showing that CARTWRIGHT, ODELL and WATTS, the Republican electors, were elected, *attested by the seal of the State and the signature of the Secretary of State.* This certificate they have appended to their return of the electoral vote of the State as cast by them, and this certificate is as much the certificate of *"the Executive"* of the State, as required by the act of Congress, as the Governor's certificate to CRONIN. The President of the Senate will therefore have no difficulty in recognizing in this certificate of the Secretary of State of Oregon a thorough compliance with the requirements of the act of Congress.

REMOVING THE CAPITAL

Mayor STOKLEY, in a message to the Councils of Philadelphia, advises those bodies to take early steps to secure the removal of the seat of government from Harrisburg to that city; and suggests that Memorial Hall might be made to serve as a suitable building for the capitol.

Of course, the Philadelphia papers take up the cry and echo the Mayor with great fidelity; but the *Evening Bulletin* is cautious enough and candid enough to warn the rest of the State that, if the seat of government is ever removed, it must be done at the expense of the people of the State and *not* at the expense of Philadelphia.

This is a timely warning, and it is worthy of close attention. Philadelphia never was so financially embarrassed as she is at the present moment; and she has costly enterprises and improvements on hand that will keep her embarrassed for many years to come. She has a floating debt of over six millions, and her revenues have never yet met the amount of her annual appropriations. The tax rate for next year has been increased to $2 25 upon the $100 of valuation, and there has been a show of retrenchment in cutting down the appropriations; but it is impossible that she should, even at this high rate, pay off more than a small portion of her floating debt during the ensuing year.

In the course of time she may get even with her creditors, and be able to pay as she goes; but that time is so far ahead that she cannot, while these inpediments last, take upon her the additional burden of providing public buildings and accommodations for the State. Her present invitation, therefore, is simply an invitation to the State to spend several millions of dollars in putting up the new buildings that will be necessitated by removal.

As to Memorial Hall, it is probably unfit for a capitol. It was designed for the purpose of an art gallery, and is fitted for that purpose alone. The State helped to build it as a memorial of the centennial year; and any attempt to turn it into a capitol, will not only be futile in itself, but will tend to destroy the purpose for which it was built.

If Philadelphia, therefore, presses this matter at the coming session of the Legislature, let it be understood that the State will have to foot the bill. Even if Philadelphia should pledge herself to bear the burden, the Legislature would, as soon as the removal was complete, be importuned by the Philadelphians to assume and pay the debt. No matter under what pretenses the removal is made, the State will be compelled, in the end, to pay every cent that the transfer may cost.

We believe in the doctrine of letting well enough alone. The State is well enough provided for where she is, and the Legislature would be no more comfortable in one city than another. The members would find more temptations to dissipation and extravagance in Philadelphia, but we have yet to learn that these are inducements to remove. It would give to Philadelphia local influences more weight in determining legislation, but the rest of the State would lose what Philadelphia would thus gain. Our advice, therefore, to the new Legislature is to give all such clap-trap invitations the go-by, and pay some regard to the convenience of the people of the State by keeping the seat of government where it is.

DISTRUST OF SOUTHERN MEN.

The Northern Democrats in Congress are extremely suspicious of the Southern Democratic members. The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* embodies these suspicions in the following dispatch:

Ben. Hill reflects the sentiments of not a few of his Southern colleagues in asserting that, if Tilden is beaten out of his election, it is much better to escape from the ills under which they now suffer by making friends with Hayes than to endure a policy of hate which has been the crowning feature of their sufferings under Grant. A prominent Democrat from the South, who does not care to be mentioned by name, said to-night: "If we don't win the fight I am not sure but what it would be better to join hands with Hayes. What is the use of our keeping up the empty shell of organization and lose control of our own affairs?"

I have been slow to harbor the belief that this feeling existed. When it was first broached it had such a fishy smack that it seemed incredible, yet the apathy, the utterances, the impression acquired by association and conversation with Southern members leads to this conclusion.

The Democratic remedy for all this is—bluster. The correspondent adds:

This is not the idle vagary of a too fecund imagination. It is too painfully a fact. If the Democrats of the North do not take some bold, firm, aggressive and determined attitude at once there is the danger that when they wake up the golden opportunity will have passed. Hayes has put out a tempting bait, and the men who have lived, as it were, in hell on earth don't pause long to inquire into the means or ways through which relief comes. The South want the local government of their own, even if they jeopardize a Presidency, and they are losing faith in the nerve of the Democrats of the North.

This accounts, then, for the noise and fury prevalent at Washington and elsewhere among the Northern Democrats. It is to keep the Southern Democrats straight and prevent them from yielding their assent to HAYES' inauguration. The "bold, firm, determined and aggressive attitude" of RANDALL and his fire-eaters is simply so much theatrical display, intended for effect on BEN. HILL and his Southern colleagues. As the Southern Democrats were not brought up in the woods to be scared by owls, the presumption is that all this bloviation will, in the end, pass for nothing.

TILDEN, the model Democratic reformer and financial bulldozer, has at last filed his answer to the complaint of HENRY H. BOODY; and, while he could not plead the "baby act" to a just claim, sets up the plea of the statute of limitations. In other words, he admits that the debt might be recovered, had the suit been instituted in time. It was set forth by complainant that, in 1864, TILDEN, BOODY and others got up a "pool" to purchase a controlling interest in the Chicago and Galena Union Railroad Company, and to consolidate that company with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company. TILDEN was a director and member of the Executive Committee of the latter company. TILDEN had about one-ninth interest in the pool, and the consolidation was effected on a basis mutually agreed upon. BOODY raised the necessary funds, $2,715,430 21. The net profit in the transaction was only $34,673 50. TILDEN's share of this was less that $4,000; but in August, 1864, and before the accounts of the pool were made up and balanced, the parties to the speculation supposed that they had made about two hundred and forty thousand dollars, and TILDEN drew, as his share, from BOODY, $26,000 in shares of the Chicago and Northwestern Company's stock then in the hands of BOODY as the manager of the pool. Soon after this transaction there was a change in Mr. BOODY's firm, as also a change of bookkeepers, and the account of the pool transaction remained, without Mr. BOODY's knowledge, unbalanced until the summer of 1875, when on examining this account he found it was unbalanced. He thereupon caused it to be balanced, and then discovered that TILDEN had overdrawn his share over $22,000. Mr. BOODY immediately notified TILDEN of this, and asked the latter either to examine the account himself or send a bookkeeper in whom he had confidence to do it for him, and to make such settlement as should appear just and equitable. After nine months' delay, TILDEN refused to do anything in the matter. The present suit was therefore begun to recover the $22,000 and interest, the whole amount being about $40,000. The complaint was served on TILDEN on May 6, 1876. When he was sued he was frankly told that he might evade payment by pleading the statute of limitations, and thus the complainant appealed solely to his sense of honor and justice. He asked for time to answer until after the St. Louis Convention, and it was granted him. He then asked for further time within which to write his letter of acceptance, and this was also granted. After this much-delayed event he asked for more time, as he was busy organizing his canvass, and it was refused, unless he would agree not to plead the statute of limitations, which agreement he refused to make. He applied to the court from time to time for further delays until after the vote of the electoral college should be cast. The court granted him the time, until he had in all 220 days in which to answer the complaint. On Monday last, the "great reformer" swore to his answer; and, after making various immaterial denials, comes to the gist of the defense, "that the alleged transactions did not take place within six years next preceding the time of the commencement of this action, and that the cause of action is barred by the statute of limitations." TILDEN's dishonesty in this case is the more strikingly apparent, since Mr. BARTHOLOMEW, also a party to the pool, who had overdrawn in precisely the same way, examined into the matter when it was brought to his attention, and promptly settled with Mr. BOODY. Even this commendable act is taken advantage of by TILDEN, who, in his answer, alleges that inasmuch as Mr. BOODY had released Mr. BARTHOLOMEW, he was thus prevented from suing any of the other members of the pool.

THE Court of Appeals of New York has decided in the case of ROEBLING *vs.* DUNCAN, SHERMAN & CO., that the act of a banker or banking house, in receiving deposits or selling a draft at a time when the banker knows himself to be insolvent, is altogether different from an ordinary act of bankruptcy, and is to be treated and punished as an act of fraud. The court says:

On the 21st day of July, 1875, the plaintiff purchased of the defendants in the ordinary way, at their banking house, a sight draft on the Union Bank, London, which was presented for payment early in August, and payment was refused. On the 27th day of July, the defendants publicly failed, and made a general assignment for the benefit of their creditors. They then owed to creditors in all parts of the world $5,000,000, mostly due, and had less than $2,000,000 of assets and their financial condition must have been substantially the same when they sold the draft. They admit that they had learned of their embarrassed condition prior to the 21st day of July, and that they were then negotiating with European parties for help. They claim that they kept books in their business in which the entries were honest and true. It is incredible then that they did not know substantially their true condition. Although they had ample opportunity to do so they did not know how much, if any, capital they at that time had in their business. They did not explain when, nor how, nor by what disaster they came to be thus largely insolvent; they did not disclose what they had discovered in the examination of their books, nor what their negotiations were, nor what reasons they had to hope that they could go on in their business. They were doing business based on a net indebtedness of $3,000,000 due to a set of duped and confiding creditors scattered through Europe and America. They must have known that they were utterly and hopelessly insolvent; that their condition was such that no change of fortune or friendly aid could relieve them; that their banking house might any day be closed, and that they would soon have either to go into bankruptcy or make an assignment. From the facts disclosed in the affidavits, they had no reason to hope that they could tide over their financial difficulties; yet they kept on their business, holding out to their customers the same delusive appearances of solvency, and inviting the same confidence. After they were in this condition they could not honestly continue their business and receive the money of their customers.

After DUNCAN, SHERMAN & Co. made an assignment, ROEBLING had them arrested and held to answer for fraud, in selling him a draft which they knew would not be honored; and after eighteen months' litigation, the Court of Appeals has finally decided that the arrest was legal and must stand. The court adds;

This is not like the case of an insolvent merchant buying goods for his store. In such a case the buyer and seller are on a footing of equality. The seller can inquire as to the solvency of the buyer, and thus, if honestly informed, judge for himself. But here the plaintiffs would not be expected to inquire of the solvency of the defendants, or to have any dealings directly with the defendants, but in the ordinary course of business they would buy their bill, as they did, like other customers over the counter of a bank, of a clerk, asking no questions as to the solvency of the bankers. Hence in the case of bankers where greater confidence is asked and reposed, and where dishonest dealing, such as is disclosed in this case, may cause wide-spread disasters, a more rigid responsibility for good faith and honest dealing must be enforced. This is not like the case of a trader who has become embarrassed and insolvent, and yet has reasonable hopes that by continuing in business he may retrieve his fortune. In such a case he may buy goods on credit, making no false representation without the necessary imputations of dishonesty.

THE Fittsburgh COMMERCIAL rather overlaps itself in its "protection" zeal when, because of the free trade dinner the other evening, it speaks of Adam Smith as a "very able Utopian."—*Brooklyn Times.*

Not at all. Granted, as our contemporary says, that "if he had done nothing else, his complete overthrow of the then prevailing doctrine, that in trade one man's gain is another man's loss, would have entitled him to the lasting gratitude of mankind," still there is an instinct in human nature which prompts a nation to make its own interests and welfare a first consideration. Is it not in accordance with the promptings of this instinct to change a tariff policy which has been found beneficial, merely because the interests of another country will be promoted by such change. It is the ambition of every nation to attain a prosperity based upon a great and diversified production, and to employ as large a proportion of its labor as possible in the higher occupations requiring skill and experience. England's persistent appeals to other nations to adhere to free trade have had the natural effect of exciting suspicion, and after a course of unexampled commercial prosperity she finds herself with a vast unemployed productive capacity and a gloomy outlook. There is nothing in this spectacle to cause the people of this country any satisfaction. They would much rather see the mother country prosperous, and no one can contemplate the evidences of a nation's decline without sympathy for those who feel first and most seriously the evil effects of a gradual drying up of the springs of prosperity. But when we are asked—as we were by the participants in the proceedings of the dinner in question—to put ourselves in this position that she may prosper at our expense—when we are asked to blow out our furnaces, close our mills and factories, and cast adrift the labor which has hitherto found profitable employment in manufacturing, that British manufacturers may prosper and British workmen have abundant and profitable occupation, the sufficient answer is that our first care is for our own well-being, and that we have no reason to make so ruinous a sacrifice.

THE census report of Massachusetts for 1875 reveals a great number of interesting sociological facts. There are at present 359,000 families in that State, or 91,000 more families than dwellings, thus indicating that nearly one-fourth of the whole number either "board out," or live with their mother-in-law. The occupied dwellings contain, on an average, 6.46 persons; in 1865 the average was 6.07. The average size of a family is established at 4.6 persons, while in 1865 it was 4.49. The families having three persons are numerous, numbering about 70,000; and those having four persons rank next, 66,000; while those having two rank only third, numbering 57,228. The families composed of six, seven and eight persons number respectively 37,856, 25,967 and 15,488. But once in a great while we find a mother who has imitated her grandmother or great-grandmother in the number of children borne. Four mothers are reported as having borne twenty-five children each, and the statements are well authenticated. A recapitulation by totals shows that more mothers give birth to four births each than any other number, while the births to each mother average 4.05; foreign-born mothers, 4.91, and to native-born mothers, 3.52; average number of births to Massachusetts mothers, 3.55; Irish mothers, 5.03; Canadian mothers, 4.78; other British mothers, 4.40; German mothers, 4.23. A comparative statement shows that the percentage of births to American parents constantly diminishes; those to foreign parents remain quite constant; those to mixed parents being on the increase. The death rate of foreign born is much in excess of that of American born, until the age of fifty is reached.

ACCORDING to the Washington correspondence of the New York *Tribune*, the joint session of Congress to count the electoral vote will be held in the Senate Chamber:

For the purpose of witnessing the count, the two Houses will meet in the Senate Chamber. Formerly that was the customary place of meeting on such occasions, but of late years, owing to the greater capacity of the Hall of Representatives, it has been changed. The old time custom will now be restored, because the Senate will insist upon it, and as the President of the Senate has the custody of the returns, the propriety of the House coming to the Senate Chamber cannot be gainsaid. There are grave reasons why the Senate should not put itself in the power of the House, which need not now be more than hinted it. Especial care will be taken to preserve strict order in the galleries of the Senate during the counting of the count. It is probable that only persons having cards of admission from the Sergeant-at-Arms will be allowed to enter, because the crowd seeking entrance will exceed by a hundredfold the capacity of the galleries. The Senate has maintained by an overwhelming majority, including a majority of the Democratic Senators, that the twenty-second joint rule is abrogated, the presiding officer will rule that nothing is in order except to open the certificates and count the votes. He will permit no debate and entertain no motions. If the House Democrats still insist on the privilege of throwing out the returns from one or more States, and withdraw, under the leadership of Speaker Randall, to carry out such a project, they will not find the doors locked, as some of them apprehend. They will be admonished as they depart that the proceeding is wholly unconstitutional and will not interfere with the completion of the count. The count will go on, and the result will show that Rutherford B. Hayes is President of the United States.

IT is now pretty evident that for the ten days prior to the day for the voting of the electoral colleges, the Democratic managers were keeping up a series of feints elsewhere to direct suspicion and attention from Oregon, which was their objective point. The boasts and jubilant talk which they indulged in during that period regarding Florida were merely a part and parcel of this strategy. So, too, it was just at that time that the Supreme Court of South Carolina issued its absurd order requiring the South Carolina electors to show cause why they should not be *restrained* from meeting. Of course, knowing the character of the two Republicans comprising the Florida board, the Democratic managers never dreamed a moment of "fixing" one of them, and they were perfectly well aware that the order of the South Carolina court regarding the Presidential electors was not worth the paper it was written on. But these feints served their purpose in allaying any suspicions regarding Oregon, thereby deterring our friends there from obtaining the injunction necessary to restrain Governor GROVER from issuing an elector's certificate to CRONIN, or from taking any other steps to thwart the conspiracy planned for that State. When, the day before the meeting of the electoral colleges, the Democratic managers in New York and Washington were jubilant and gave out hints that Oregon was all right, they had unquestionably received assurances from Governor GROVER that he could be relied upon to consummate the rascality. Whatever may be the upshot of all this, one thing appears to be well settled upon, and that is, that the United States Senate will never permit such a political scoundrel to take a seat in that body.

GOVERNOR GROVER, of Oregon, misled by ex-Judge HOADLEY, of Cincinnati, relied upon two decisions in New York and Indiana to justify him is deciding that the minority candidate was elected whenever the majority candidate was ineligible. In the New York case, the lower court, whose decision Governor GROVER refers to, affirmed this doctrine; but the Court of Appeals, the final court in that State, reversed that decision and established the other doctrine. The uniform tenor of New York decisions is against Governor GROVER, and he cannot justify himself by citing a reversed opinion as legal authority. (See SICKLES' New York Reports, vol. 5, p. 451.) In the Indiana case, in the case of GULICK *vs.* NEW, 14 Ind., 93, held that where the persons casting the vote *have notice of the disqualification* their votes are nullities, and the opposing candidate is elected, but subsequent Indiana decisions (such as PRICE *vs.* [illegible], Ind., 572) confirm the opinion of the Court of Appeals of New York, so that Indiana now stands with the rest of the States in repudiating Governor GROVER's doctrine. The British authorities are based upon a different system of practice to ours; but even there it is held that votes for an ineligible candidate are void only in cases where the notice of ineligibility is brought to the knowledge of the voter. This does not cover the Oregon case, where no notice was given; so that the decision of GROVER has not a single good legal authority to stand upon.

THE New Hampshire Constitutional Convention, after a session of eleven days, has adjourned until the third Monday in April. The principal aim of the convention is to improve the electoral system and the composition of the State Legislature. New Hampshire holds an anomalous position among the States in these respects. Its elections are held several days after the beginning of Congress to which is chosen members, and hence it has been unrepresented on some important occasions. In Presidential years its early State canvass has exposed it to corrupting temptations. Several useless obstacles to the franchise are maintained under the form of qualifications of voters. Its legislative representation has been awkward and inefficient. All these subjects the convention has discussed, and many of the defects it has proposed to cure. It is intended to abolish the religious test as a qualification for office; the Senate is to be increased from twelve to twenty-four members, and the House decreased from four hundred to three hundred, and no money is ever to be granted or applied for the use of schools or institutions of any religious sect or denomination. Every proposition has been adopted by a large majority after the freest discussion, indicating that the convention has in view such changes and improvements only as the voters of the State demand or will accept.

MR. SHAW LEFEVRE, a distinguished member of the English Parliament, in a recent speech upon the general financial depression, showed that the Germans, far from profiting by their successful war with France, have been terribly demoralized by it; the large sums of money poured into the country having destroyed the simple habits of the people and produced luxury and waste. Can we not trace the corruption, undoubtedly too prevalent in public and private life among ourselves, to similar causes? The dignified economy and stern simplicity of our fathers no longer exist. The passion for display, for fine houses and finer clothes, the thoughtless prodigality, or reckless self-indulgence that must end in crime or bankruptcy, is a national sin. If we may believe General BUTLER, and he is too good a lawyer to make unauthorized statements, every State and city, every town and village, perhaps we might add almost every church and college, staggers under its load of debt, and it is to this decay of the homely virtues of economy and honesty, is due not only the fall of the Cabinet officer who betrays his trust, but the embezzlement and defalcations so common in less conspicuous stations. Now that we stand amid the embers and ashes of the dying year, it is a good time to reflect upon these things.

THE Democratic merchants and bankers of New York are said to be getting heartily sick of TILDEN. Political enthusiasm has died out, and in the reaction, TILDEN as a man comes to view, and the view is not favorable. In that city he was, personally, no idol of the people. He was always distrusted, and JOHN KELLY only reiterated the opinion of the entire city Democracy, in his speech at the St. Louis Convention. The course of Governor HAYES, as an honest man, standing quietly by, to let the election be decided on its merits, has won him hosts of friends among the Democrats. FERNANDO WOOD's sentiments are declared to find no response from his constituents, which is saying a good deal. In Wall street there is but one opinion, viz.: that HAYES will be peacefully inaugurated, not only, but that long before the 4th of March he will have the hearty support of the country without regard to party. The fact that he is legally elected being now established beyond a doubt, the Democrats equally with the Republicans are anxious to set the wheels of business moving again, and will, from this time out, frown down all talk of fighting TILDEN into the White House.

THE year is closing on a steady and substantial reduction in the price of gold. Its present price is believed to be only maintained by the New York merchants themselves, who, confident that the price will nearly reach par before the close of the winter, borrow gold to pay duties with, instead of buying it; thus the present price is maintained by the borrowing demand. The noiseless quietness which has characterized the steady appreciation of currency to gold during the past few months is the wonder of the year. While our political economists and financiers were vexing their brains with abstruse calculations on ratios of currency to gold necessities, the earth was silently yielding her increase. Over the sea it sped soon to return as bright gold, till finally our market was deluged; and as no one cared to invest greenbacks in a currency which lost each day a little of its purchasing power, the bugbear of a hopeless premium on gold vanished, and the long debated theory of specie resumption becomes practically an established fact.

THE Atlanta (Ga.) *Constitution*, an outspoken Confederate organ, is disgusted with the ravings and rantings of such Northern copperhead sheets as the *Post*. It says:

Whenever and wherever the slogan of war is raised, let the emphatic response of the entire South be, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Our people have already resorted to this sort of "arbitrament," and were so terribly in earnest that they never succombed until nearly every family mourned the loss of a gallant son, brother or father; a debt of two billions of dollars had been repudiated; four millions of slaves emancipated; towns and cities laid waste, and gaunt famine and want stared every one in the face. We state deliberately that the assertion that the South is prepared, by force of arms to seat Mr. Tilden, or engage in another attempt at revolution, is wholly and absolutely false. The very men most opposed to such folly are the battle-scarred heroes of the lost cause. They have felt the shock of battle and realized the miseries of war, and therefore shrink aghast at a renewal of the direful spectacle. No. Having taken anew the oath of allegiance and plighted our faith to conserve the public peace, we do not intend to be seduced into rebellion upon any national issue.

THE people of this country declared their independence of monarchy upwards of a hundred years ago, but some of the Democrats of New York, disgusted at the failure of TILDEN and "reform," are circulating and signing a petition to Congress for reannexation to Great Britain. The following is the text of the precious document:

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America at Washington assembled: The undersigned citizens of the United States of America, having in view the present and prospective dangers ensuing from our Government, beg respectfully to petition your honorable bodies that commissioners be appointed with full authority to *arrange the terms of a treaty of reconciliation with Great Britain*, settling all causes of estrangement which have unhappily existed for the past century between the two countries, to the end that the people of a common origin may enjoy the natural fraternity to which they are entitled, and the civil and religious liberty which our ancestors have won in leading the progressive civilization of the Caucasian race for the past thousand years.

SPEAKER WALLACE finds it convenient to go to England for precedents to sustain the Oregon fraud, and in so doing swallows his own principles. In the disputed case of WALLACE against SIMPSON he declared himself strongly against the principle on which Governor GROVER acted in the case of WATTS. He said:

I dissent from the first proposition which he makes in this report, that Mr. Simpson being ineligible, the votes cast for him are null and void, and that, therefore, the candidate who received the next highest number of votes should be admitted. My associate on the committee, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. Hale], also, if I understand correctly, dissents from that position. The gentleman making this report gives us no American authority or precedent to sustain his position. He relies entirely upon English authorities and English precedents. Now, I maintain that in the formation of the American Congress there is no analogy to the Constitution of the British Parliament. The latter is formed, as it were, on an aristocratic basis of suffrage; the American Congress rests, I may say, on universal suffrage.

AT THE late election the total vote of the State of New York was about 1,050,000; that of Pennsylvania was 758,910.

The population of New York in 1870 was 4,382,759; that of Pennsylvania was 3,521,791.

New York increased her population from 1860 to 1870 at the rate of 50,000 a year, and Pennsylvania at the rate of 60,000 a year.

Allowing the same rate of increase, since 1870, the population of New York would now be 4,682,759, and that of Pennsylvania 3,881,791.

Upon this basis the vote of New York is one to about four and a half of population, and that of Pennsylvania one to five. In other words, as Pennsylvania polled a full and honest vote, New York, at the same ratio, should have polled only 935,552 votes. The fair and honest inference is that New York polled 114,000 illegal votes, which we have no doubt she did. She cannot have anything like a million of voters.

CHANCELLOR KENT used to be considered a good authority upon questions of constitutional law, and we therefore cite the following, from his Commentaries, with some confidence that it will be received as decisive:

The Constitution does not expressly declare by whom the votes are to be counted and the result declared. In the case of questionable votes, and in a closely contested election, this power may be all important; and I presume, *in the absence of legislative opinion on the subject*, that the President of the Senate counts the votes, and determines the result, and that the Houses are present only as spectators to witness the fairness and accuracy of the transaction, and to act only in case of a failure to be made by the electors.—*Kent's Commentaries*, vol. 1, p. 271.

There being, at present, no legislative provision on the subject, the conclusion remains that the President of the Senate must "count" the electoral votes, and that whosoever he shall declare to have been elected, in the language of the Constitution will "be the President."

IT IS remarkable that nearly all the threats of revolution, violence and armed resistance to the inauguration of HAYES come from the North, and not from the South as in 1861. The Southern men were ready enough to commit any fraud or practice any violence necessary to carry the election for TILDEN; but going into a new war while all the sores of the old one are still open is another thing altogether. The Southern men know what war really is, and these baying Northern hounds do not. The latter boasted in 1860 and 1861 of the great things *they* would do, if war broke out; but when it came to the punch they all backed out, and contented themselves with such sneaking opposition to the war as cowardly traitors might be supposed willing to give. The idea that a Northern Democrat will fight rather than submit to an adverse election result is ridiculous in itself. The Southern Democrats evidently have no faith in either their sincerity or courage.

ONE renegade Abolitionist is worse than ten Democrats, as is proven by JULIAN, of Indiana, who was once an Abolitionist, but has lately turned Democrat. While he was really an anti-slavery man his ear was open to any and every tale of wrong inflicted upon the black man; but as a Democrat, he can visit Louisiana, see and hear Mrs. PINKSTON and listen to her horrid recital of the barbarities practiced upon her, and look with open eyes at the most glaring evidences of fraud and violence, and then return home and report that the election in Louisiana was perfectly honest, fair and legal! He knows better, and so does every Democrat who accompanied him; but, as a Democrat, he is so utterly lost to all sense of shame, that he goes beyond what any decent Democrat would be ashamed of. The poor recreant testifies as glibly to an untruth as TITUS OATES did during the working of his Popish plot.

THE New Orleans correspondent of the Chicago *Evening Journal* says that poor ELIZA PINKSTON is sinking fast, and can hardly survive long. It was a marvel that she did not die the night her throat was cut and other indignities still worse were heaped upon her. She is now delirious. She lives over again the horrible scenes of the night her husband and babe were assassinated and herself treated still worse. She shrieks in terror, with a voice which cannot be simulated, "don't Dr. YOUNG, don't!" It is a pity the editor of the *Post* could not be a nurse for a few days by the side of that sick bed. He might then have his sense of humanity not only aroused, but rendered effective. The wretch YOUNG, is out on bail.

THE net exports of specie from New York up to the present time are the smallest in amount of any year for a long time. At the close of last week the exports for the year were $42,743,373, and the imports $17,787,186; so that the excess of exports was slightly below twenty-five millions. Last year, at the same date, they were more that fifty-five millions; in 1874 they were forty-eight millions; and in 1873, the highest year for exports of coin except this year since 1869, they were nearly thirty millions. The very large amounts now on the way hither will probably reduce the net export for the current year to less than twenty million dollars.

Moses, the Lawgiver.

Moses, the lawgiver—or perhaps, we should say Moses, the late lawgiver—is in sore trouble in South Carolina. He is confronted with the serious question not only whether the various political-judicial orders which recently he has signed as Chief Justice are worth the paper on which they are written, but whether he is or for some time has been Chief Justice at all, or whether he has' been anything more than plain Mr. Moses, the senior member of the unsavory family of that name. That the family is unsavory there is abundance of proof. We need look no further for evidences on this subject than to the Democrats who have been busy procuring contradictory orders from the late Chief Justice and seeking to carry out various conflicting purposes by means of them. For whatever disgrace has overtaken the Republican party in South Carolina the Moses family is largely responsible. In Western phrase, it has fairly "chucked odium on to" the party.

It happens that among the other things which the late Chief Justice did not know was the law. He did not know enough of that to determine his own title to a seat on the bench. He accepted the office of Professor of Law in the University of South Carolina, and continued to act as Chief Justice, ignorant that the first office was a State office and that under the Constitution of the State its acceptance vacated his judicial office. In 1866 Chancellor Inglis declined the professorship on this express ground; and the Democratic Charleston *News*, which has given the Republicans so many certificates of the good character of Governor Chamberlain, furnished them a year ago with authority for holding that the Chief Justice's office was vacant. That was before the Democrats found the Moses family useful.

Whether the existing Legislature has power to declare Moses' office vacant and appoint somebody in his place may be a question; but his office really appears to be vacant. We congratulate the Supreme Court of South Carolina, while we commisserate the University of that State.—*New York Evening Post.*

Massachusetts has what Mrs. Livermore calls a great number of "superfluous women"—a discouraging surplus of females. Discussing the conjugal condition, the last census report evolves the fact that there are 63,146 more females than males. Fifty-four per cent. of the population are single, 94,151 are widowed, about 5,000 are divorced. It is also ascertained that of the single 449,307 are males and 458,285 are females. Of the widowed, 20,624 are males and 73,527 are females. Of the divorced, 900 are males. The excess of females in the State may be accounted for in this way: the boys go away and the girls stay at home, and aimlessly wait a chance to get a husband, but often get none. The tenderer among the sons of Massachusetts seek their fortunes away from home is very strong.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

The Democratic Fiasco at Chicago—A Series of Political Blunderers—Minnesotans Ready for any Emergency—Election of United States Senator—The Grasshopper Question—Will the Easte n States have a Visit from Them?—Capital Punishment—A visit to the Younger Brothers—Sale of Indian Ponies.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

ST. PAUL, December 13, 1876.

Politically speaking, I